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BIG COMICS SPECIAL

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第六集

Yukimoba Hoshino Presents

星野之宣

BIG COMICS SPECIAL

THE CASE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MUNAKATA

宗像教授異考録

Munakata Kyouju Ikouroku

Collection 6

第六集

星野之宣

Yukinobu Hoshino Presents

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CHAPTER 17: REUNION

Long, long ago, an old bamboo cutter named Sanuki-no-Miyatsuko found a glowing stalk of bamboo, and when he cut it open, he found a small girl inside.

She grew as fast as a bamboo stalk, and in three months she had become a beautiful young maiden.

The childless old man gleefully brought the girl home.

A man named Inbe-no-Okina became her godfather, and gave her the name "Princess Kaguya of the Bamboo".

Hearing rumors of her, young nobles overwhelmed her to ask for her hand in marriage. Even the Emperor himself paid a visit, but Princess Kaguya gave each of them an impossible task, and turned them all down.

The years passed, and the pensive princess said... "I have come from the city of the moon, and I must return there on the full moon of the fifteenth..."

On the night of the full moon, a celestial being descended from the skies, announcing that he had come to retrieve the princess, whom he had left in their care for a brief time.

Though she had spent over twenty years with the old man, Princess Kaguya departed, leaving the grieving old man behind...

AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, THIS IS THE "TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER"... THE STORY OF PRINCESS KAGUYA.

HERE'S ANOTHER TALE YOU ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH.

5

...Long ago, a fisherman by the name of Urashima caught a turtle, but out of pity, he returned it to the ocean...

7

The next day...

Lured by the beautiful woman, he spent ten days on her boat, until they arrived at her home island.

But he became concerned about his father and mother that he had left behind, and decided to return.

He married the woman in the Dragon Palace, and spent three years with her in what seemed like a dream.

When he returned to his village, his home was gone. What's more, he did not recognize any of the people.

The woman revealed herself to be the turtle that he had rescued, and stalled him with her tears, but she simply handed him a box as a farewell gift.

He asked the elder, who told him that a young man named Urashima had gone to sea and not returned, but it had happened hundreds of years ago.

He was so disheart-ened, that he opened the box he was told not to open...

THERE ARE A NUMBER [redacted] KAGUYA.

CAN [redacted] TELL WHAT THEY [redacted]

URASHIMA THOUGHT THAT THREE [redacted] PASSED.

[redacted]

[redacted]

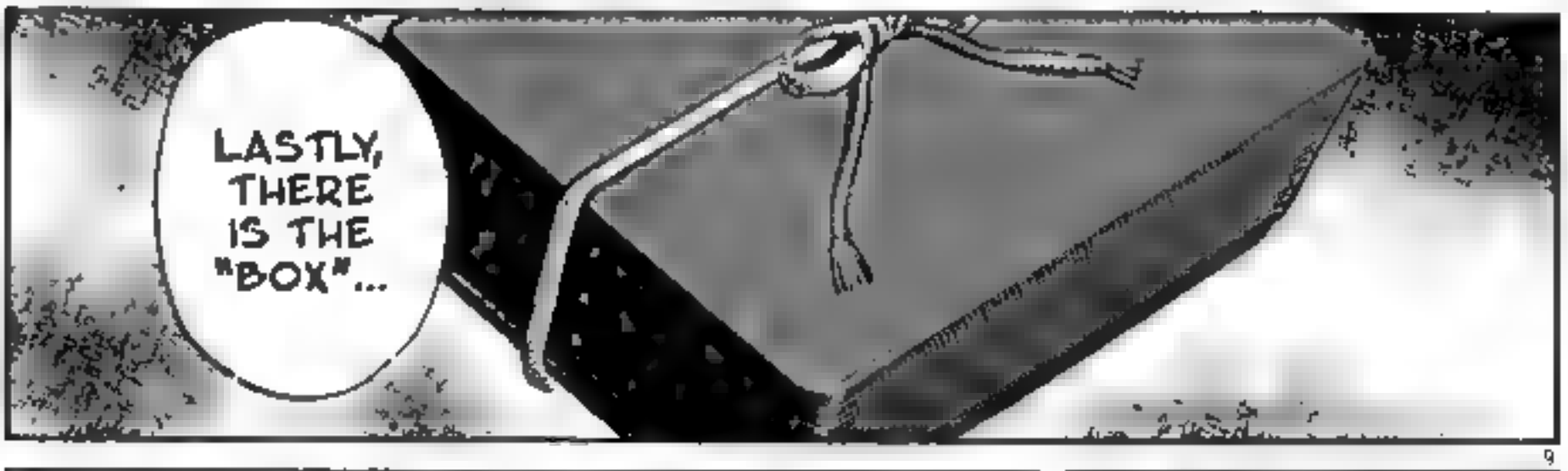
BUT [redacted]

PRINCESS KAGUYA [redacted] SHE LIVED ON EARTH AS A BRIEF TIME.

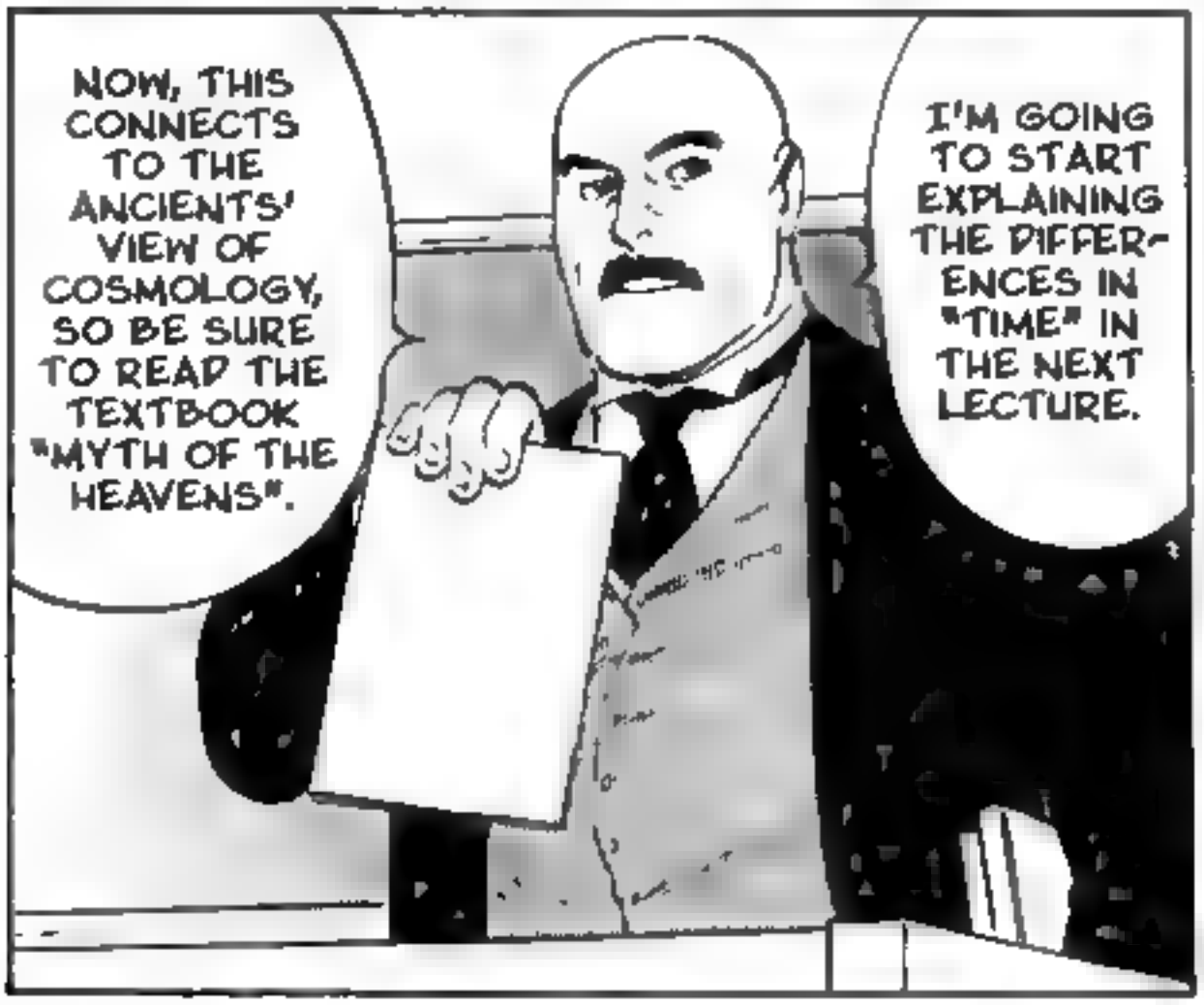
IT APPEARED THAT THE [redacted] OF THE MOON PERCEIVED TIME DIFFERENTLY THAN THOSE ON EARTH.

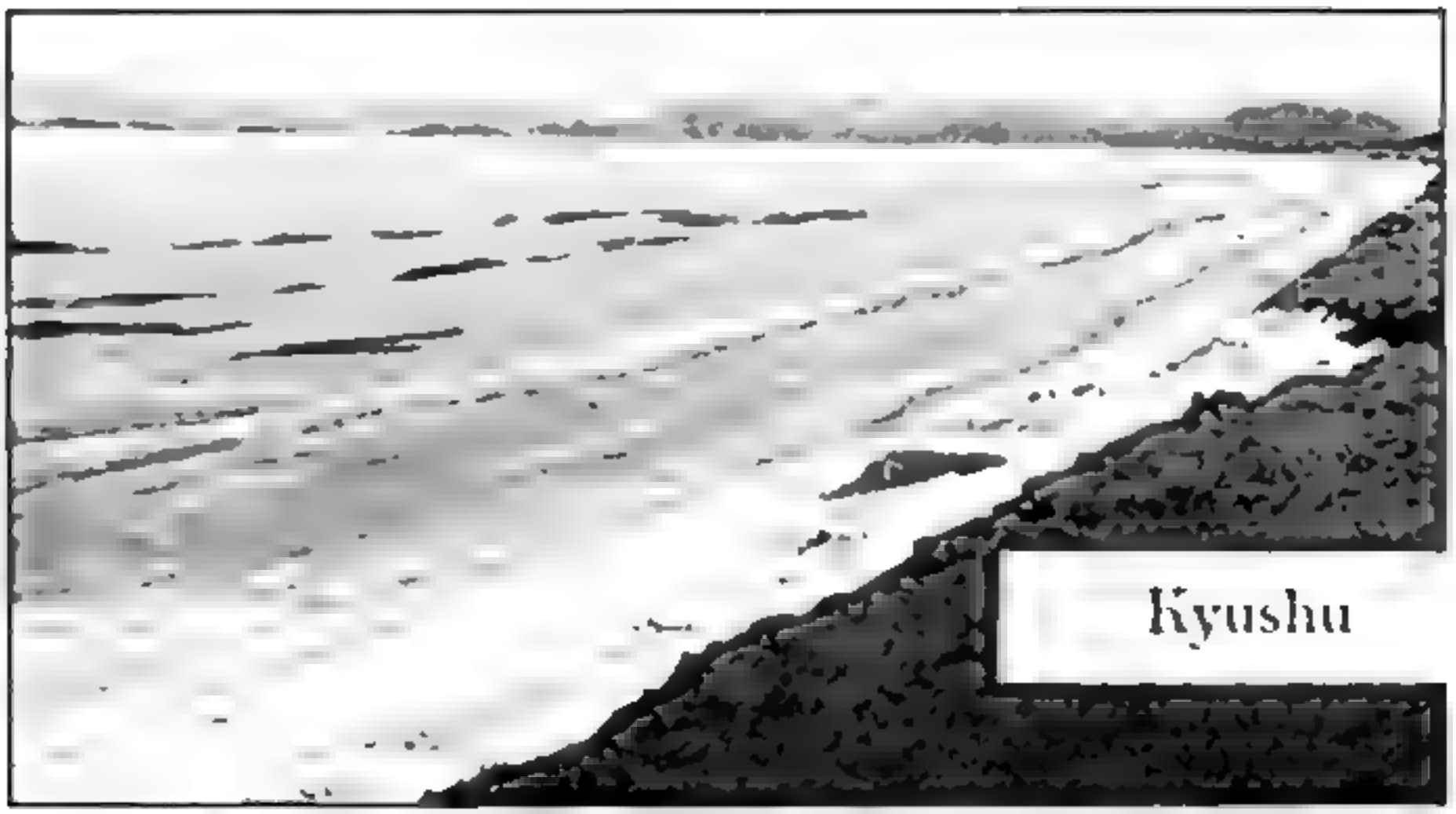
THE SIMPLE FISHERMAN, URASHIMA, SPENT SOME TIME IN ANOTHER WORLD, AND RETURNED TO HIS HOMELAND AFTER A TRAGIC FAREWELL.

THE DENIZEN OF THE MOON, PRINCESS KAGUYA, WAS RAISED TEMPORARILY ON EARTH, AND RETURNED TO HER HOMELAND AFTER A TRAGIC FAREWELL...
THERE ARE ALSO SIMILARITIES IN THE STORY STRUCTURE.

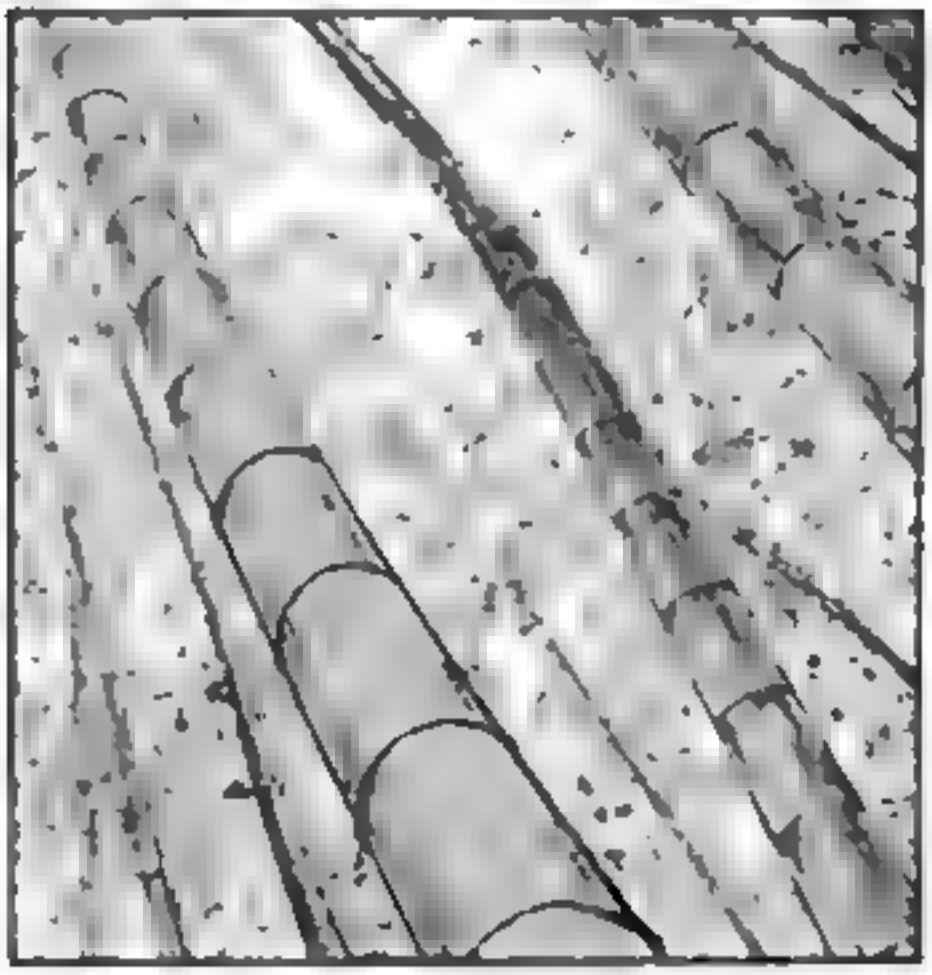

LASTLY, THERE IS THE "BOX"...

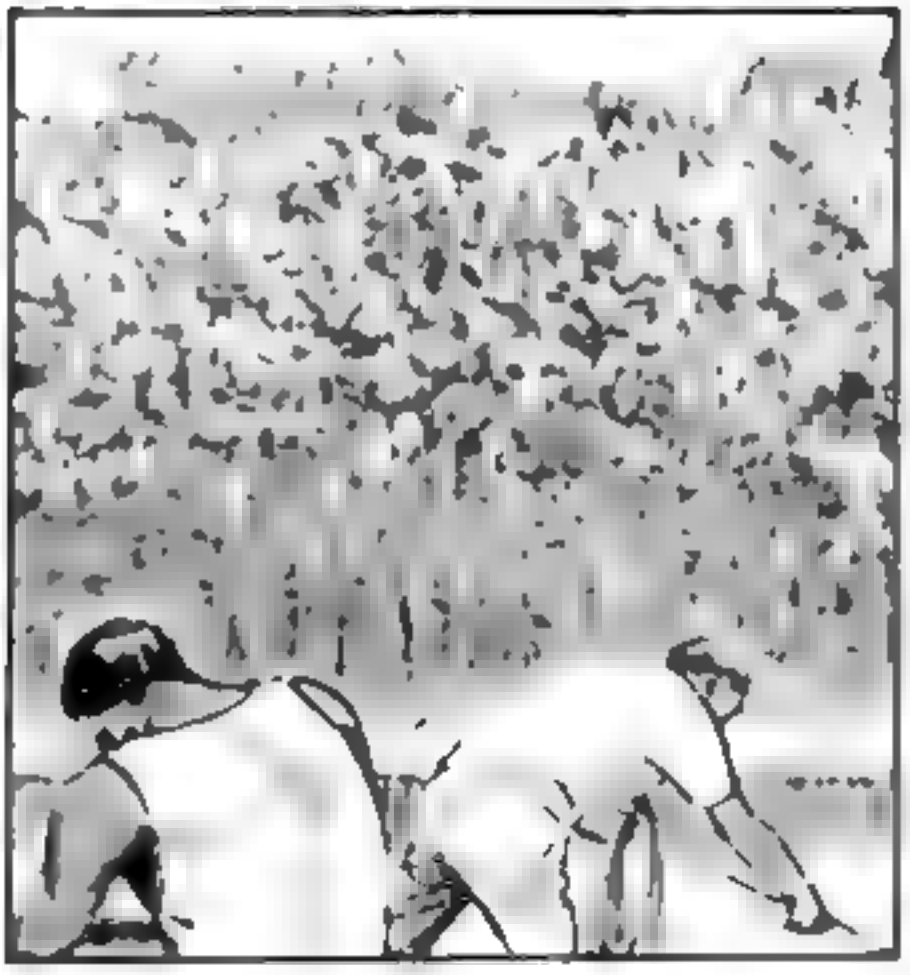
9


NOW, THIS CONNECTS TO THE ANCIENTS' VIEW OF COSMOLOGY, SO BE SURE TO READ THE TEXTBOOK "MYTH OF THE HEAVENS".
I'M GOING TO START EXPLAINING THE DIFFERENCES IN "TIME" IN THE NEXT LECTURE.


Kyushu

Satsuma Peninsula,
Kagoshima Prefecture





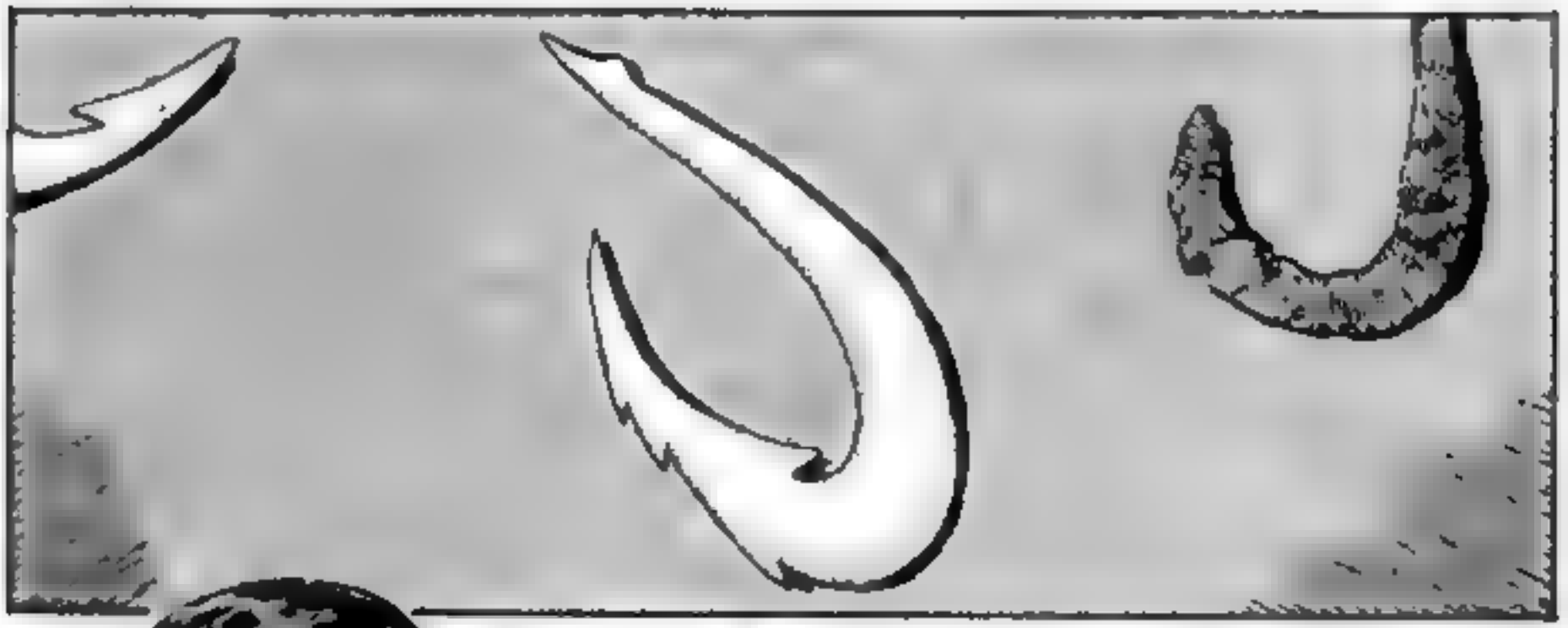
THE GRAVE OF THE HAYATO ...

THAT'S RIGHT, MISS IMIBE. THIS AREA WAS ONCE THE DWELLING OF A GROUP CALLED THE "ATA HAYATO"...

THEY APPEARED TO BE A SEAFARING GROUP THAT MADE A LIVING OFF OF FISHING, AND IT'S SAID THAT MANY WERE GIVEN "WATER BURIALS". IT'S RARE TO FIND A PROPER GRAVE OF THEIRS.

Along with the Emishi of the East, the Hayato of Southern Kyushu were known as a people group that resisted the Yamato rule, and they were also known by the name of the "Kumaso"

The pattern of a famous Hayato shield discovered in the ruins of Heijo is thought to have been designed with the motif of a fishing hook, speaking to the seafaring nature of the Hayato.

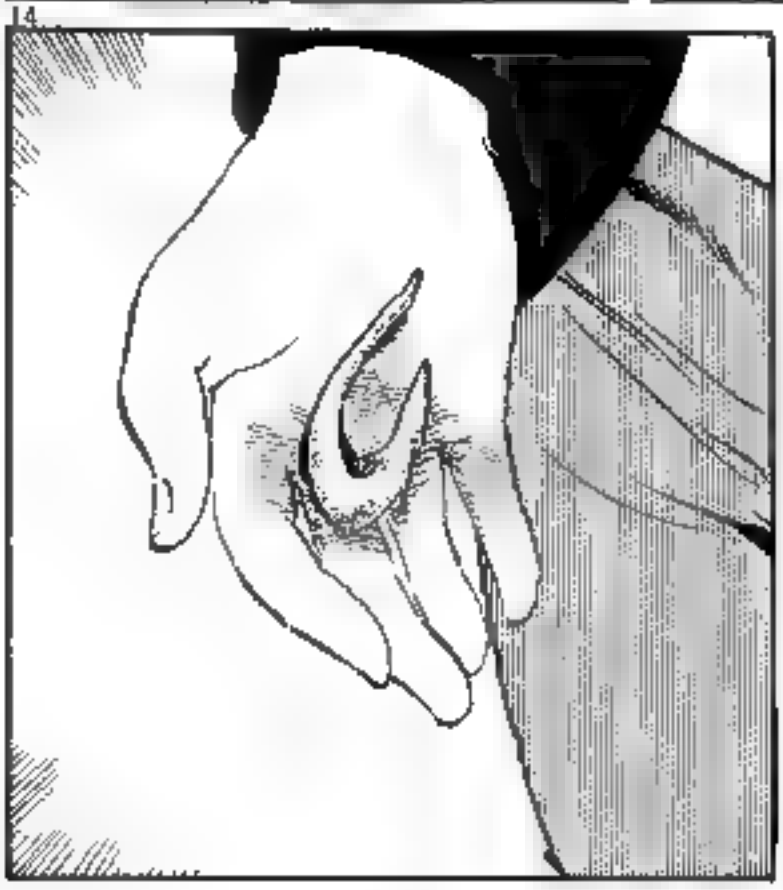


THIS IS A FISHING HOOK MADE OUT OF A DEER'S ANTLER. HERE, THE IRON ONES ARE RUSTED TO THE POINT THAT THEIR ORIGINAL SHAPE IS UN-RECOGNIZ-ABLE.
THIS BODY MUST'VE BEEN A HAYATO FISHER THAT USED THIS FISH HOOK IN LIFE...

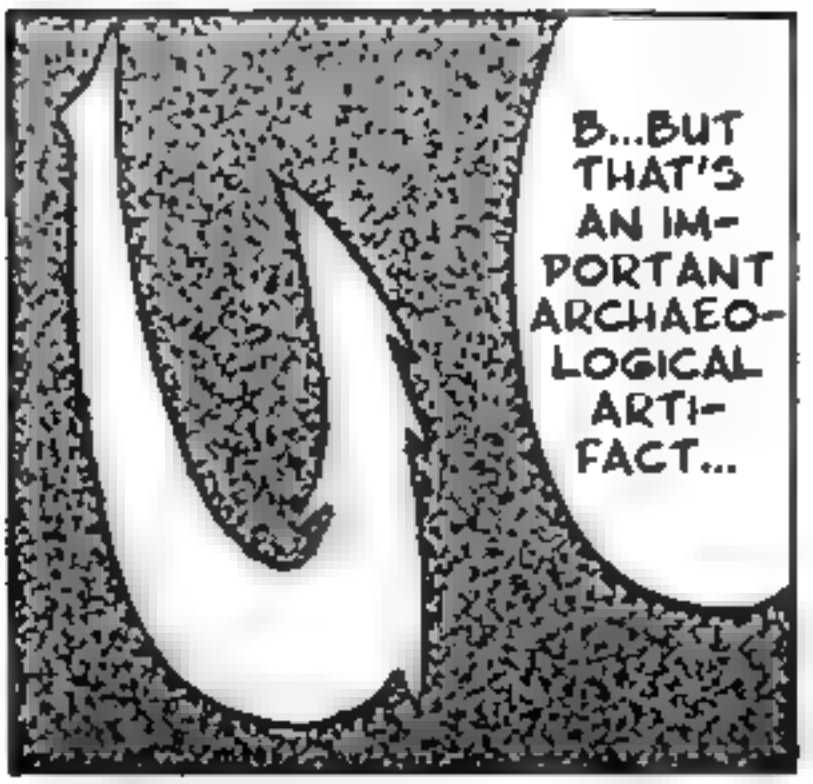
*REFER TO THE TITULAR STORY OF THE SPECIAL VOLUME "KAMUNABI".

I HAPPENED TO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO AN EVENT IN KA-GOSHIMA CITY ABOUT THE HAYATO, SO I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY WHILE I WAS HERE.
IT REALLY HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, MR. ATA.

14



SORRY IT'S NOT VERY GLAM-OROUS!
I'VE ALREADY TAKEN THE RECORDS ON IT, AND I'LL TELL THEM I LOST THE ORIGINAL... MUMBLE MUMBLE...


B...BUT THAT'S AN IM-PORTANT ARCHAEO-LOGICAL ARTI-FACT...

.....

KYUSHU'S BEEN A PERFECT SITE FOR BAMBOO SINCE ANCIENT TIMES...
THIS IS AN IM-PRESSIVE BAM-BOO GROVE ...

Kyoto Prefecture
Suburbs of
Kyotanabe City

A TUNNEL TOMB GROUP...

WELL, WELL, WELL. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE EXCAVATION OF THE TAKEDA GOLD MINE* I WROTE ABOUT IN "THE CENTIPEDE AND THE DRAGON".

YOU SHOULD'VE CALLED AHEAD. I WOULD'VE COME TO PICK YOU UP!

PRO-FESSOR MUNA-KATA!

HEHE... I'M ONLY HELPING OUT FOR A FRIEND. ANCIENT HISTORY IS BEYOND MY AREA OF EXPERTISE.

I CALLED YOUR FATHER FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE, AND HE TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE WORK-ING ON A DIG OVER HERE, MISS YAE.

I'M TAKI. MY UNCLE'S BEEN GOING OUT ON HIS OWN ALL THE TIME, SO I FORCED HIM TO TAKE ME THIS TIME.

IS THIS YOUR NIECE...?

*SEE THE SPECIAL VOLUME "THE CASE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MUNAKATA, COLLECTION 1", CHAPTER 2, "THE CENTIPEDE AND THE DRAGON"

WE'VE DISCOVERED A NUMBER OF TUNNEL TOMB GROUPS ON THIS HILL, BUT THIS IS THE ONE WE'VE EXCAVATED MOST RECENTLY.

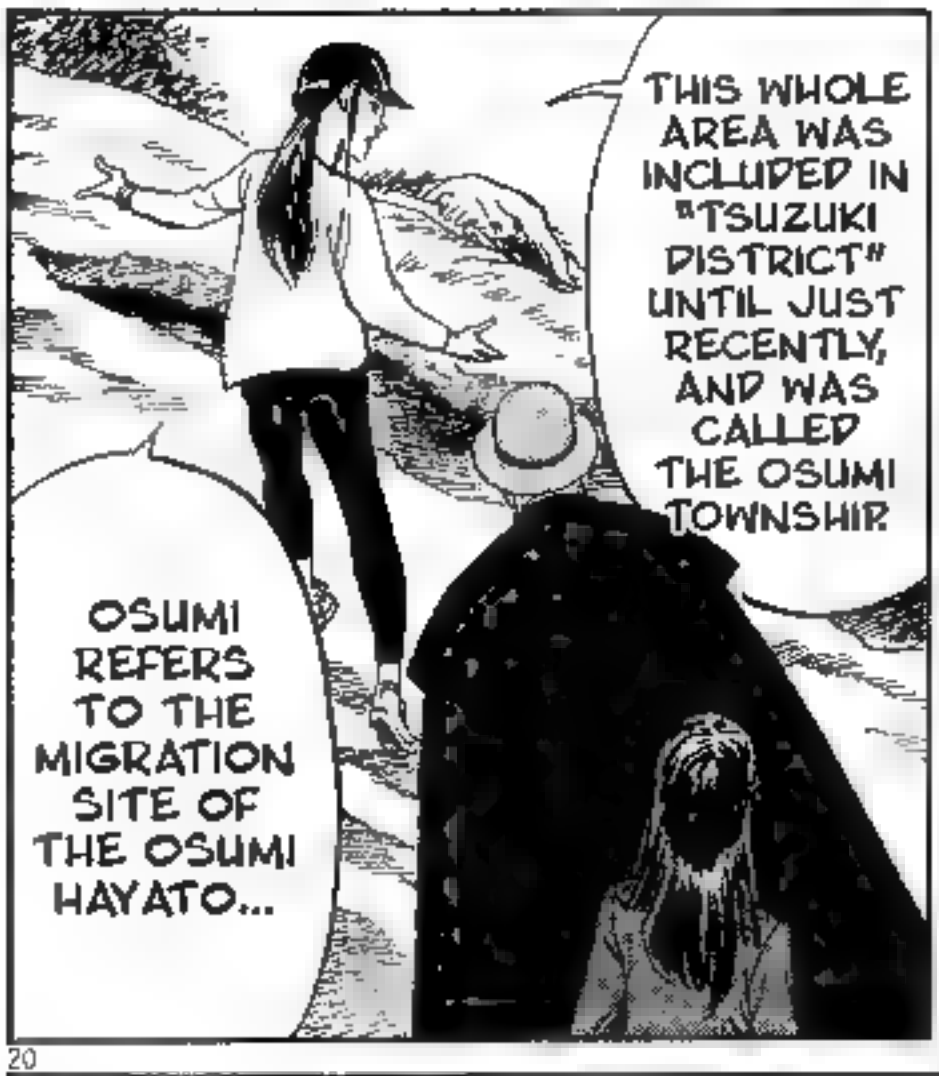
ARE THE BODIES ALL BURIED SEPARATELY IN THESE TUNNELS? IT'S LIKE AN APARTMENT TOMB.

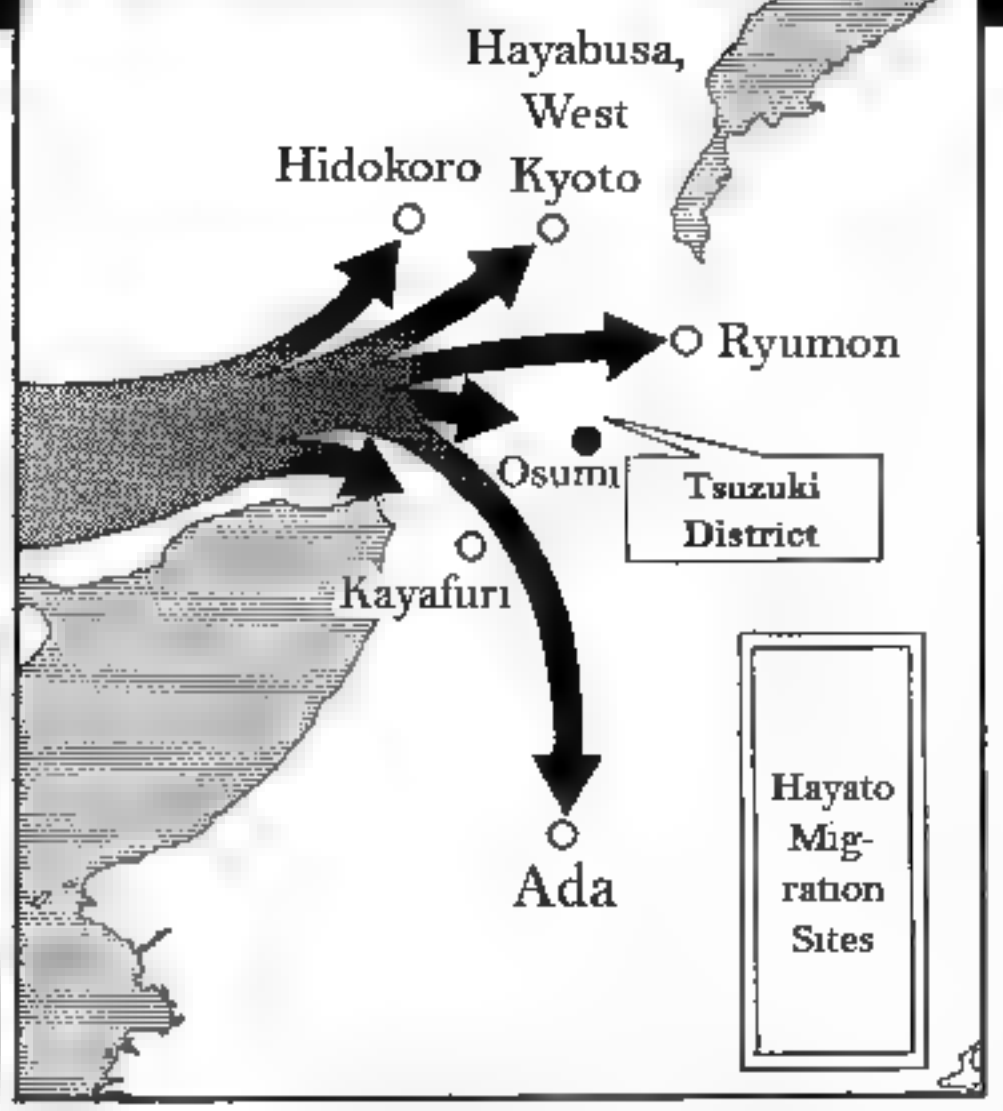
THERE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN A MASS MIGRATION OF THE HAYATO FROM SOUTH KYUSHU TO KINAI DURING THE NARA PERIOR

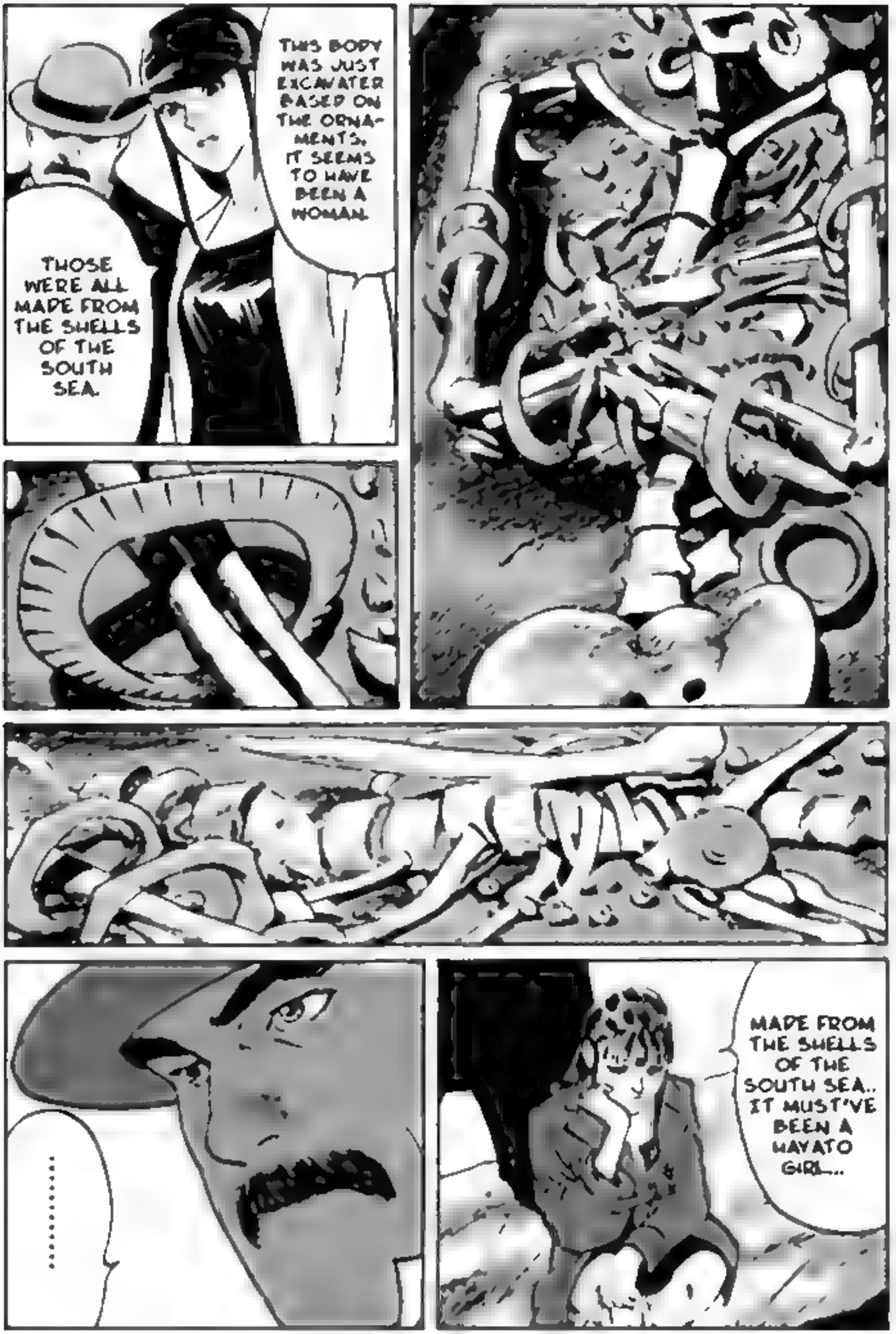
THOUGH MORE ACCURATELY, IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN COMPULSIVE...

THE HAYATO ?

I SEEM TO RECALL THAT THE HAYATO OF SOUTH KYUSHU WERE FAMOUS FOR BUILDING TUNNEL TOMBS...


THIS WHOLE AREA WAS INCLUDED IN "TSUZUKI DISTRICT" UNTIL JUST RECENTLY, AND WAS CALLED THE OSUMI TOWNSHIP.
OSUMI REFERS TO THE MIGRATION SITE OF THE OSUMI HAYATO...


Hayabusa,
West
Kyoto
Hidokoro
Ryumon
Osumi
Tsuzuki District
Kayafuri
Ada
Hayato Migration Sites


THIS BODY WAS JUST EXCAVATED BASED ON THE ORNAMENTS. IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A WOMAN.
THOSE WERE ALL MADE FROM THE SHELLS OF THE SOUTH SEA.
.....
MADE FROM THE SHELLS OF THE SOUTH SEA.. IT MUST'VE BEEN A HAYATO GIRL...

WELL, WE KNOW THAT THIS WAS A MIGRATORY SITE FOR THE HAYATO...

BUT YOU CAME TO STUDY PRINCESS KAGUYA, RIGHT, UNCLE?

YOU MENTIONED THAT THIS AREA USED TO BE CALLED OSUMI TOWNSHIP, TSUZUKI DISTRICT, DIDN'T YOU?

I SEEM TO RECALL THAT "TSUZUKI" USED TO BE WRITTEN "TSUTSUKI".

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I THINK IT WAS ANOTHER NAME FOR BAMBOO.

AND TSUTSUKI MEANS "TUBULAR TREE"...

IN THE ACCOUNT OF EMPEROR SUIJIN IN THE NIHONGI, THERE IS THE NAME "OTOSUTSUKI TARASHIHIKO-MIKOTO". HE MAY HAVE BEEN A MAN THAT LIVED IN THE OTOSUTSUKI DISTRICT

IF THIS NAME WAS THE END OF IT, I'D WRITE IT OFF AS A COINCIDENCE BUT THE ISSUE IS THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE SURROUNDING RAGUYAHIME.

AND HIS DAUGHTER'S NAME IS "RAGUYA-HIME."

THE ONLY RECORD ABOUT OTOSUTSUKI TARASHIHIKO-MIKOTO IS THAT HIS DAUGHTER BECAME EMPEROR SUIJIN, AND GAVE BIRTH TO THE PRINCE...

RAGU-YAHIME

HER GREAT-GRAND-FATHER IS "TAKE" NOHIME ...

HER FATHER IS O"TSUTSUKI" TARINE-NO-MIKO...

AND HER UNCLE IS "SANUKI" TARINE-NO-MIKO,

AND FINALLY, "KAGU-YAHIME". THESE CORRE-SPOND TO...

Em-peror Kaika

Hi-koyu mu-sumi-no-Mikoto

Take-nohime

Sanuki Tarine-no-Miko

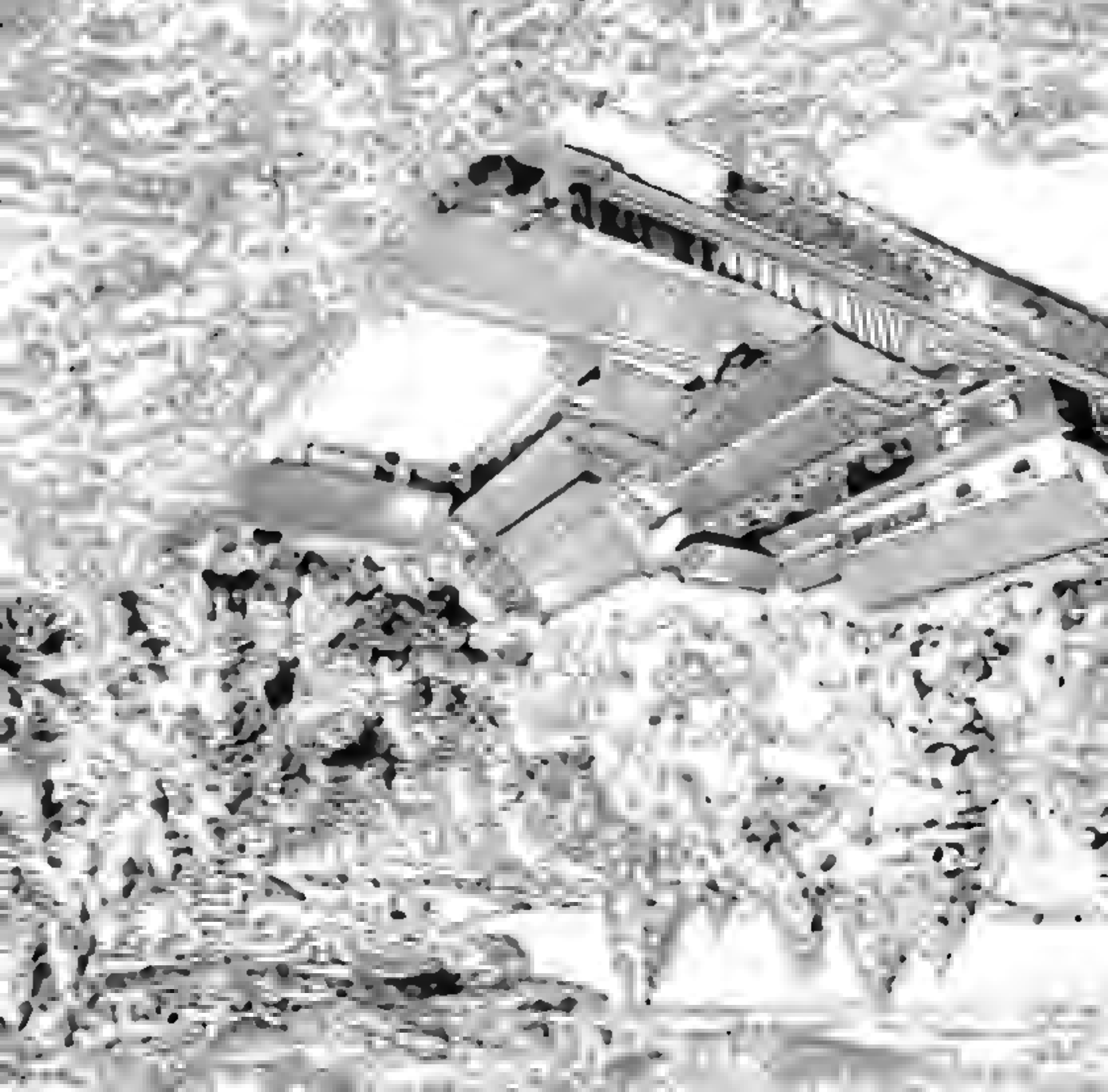
Otsu-tsuki Tarine-no-Miko

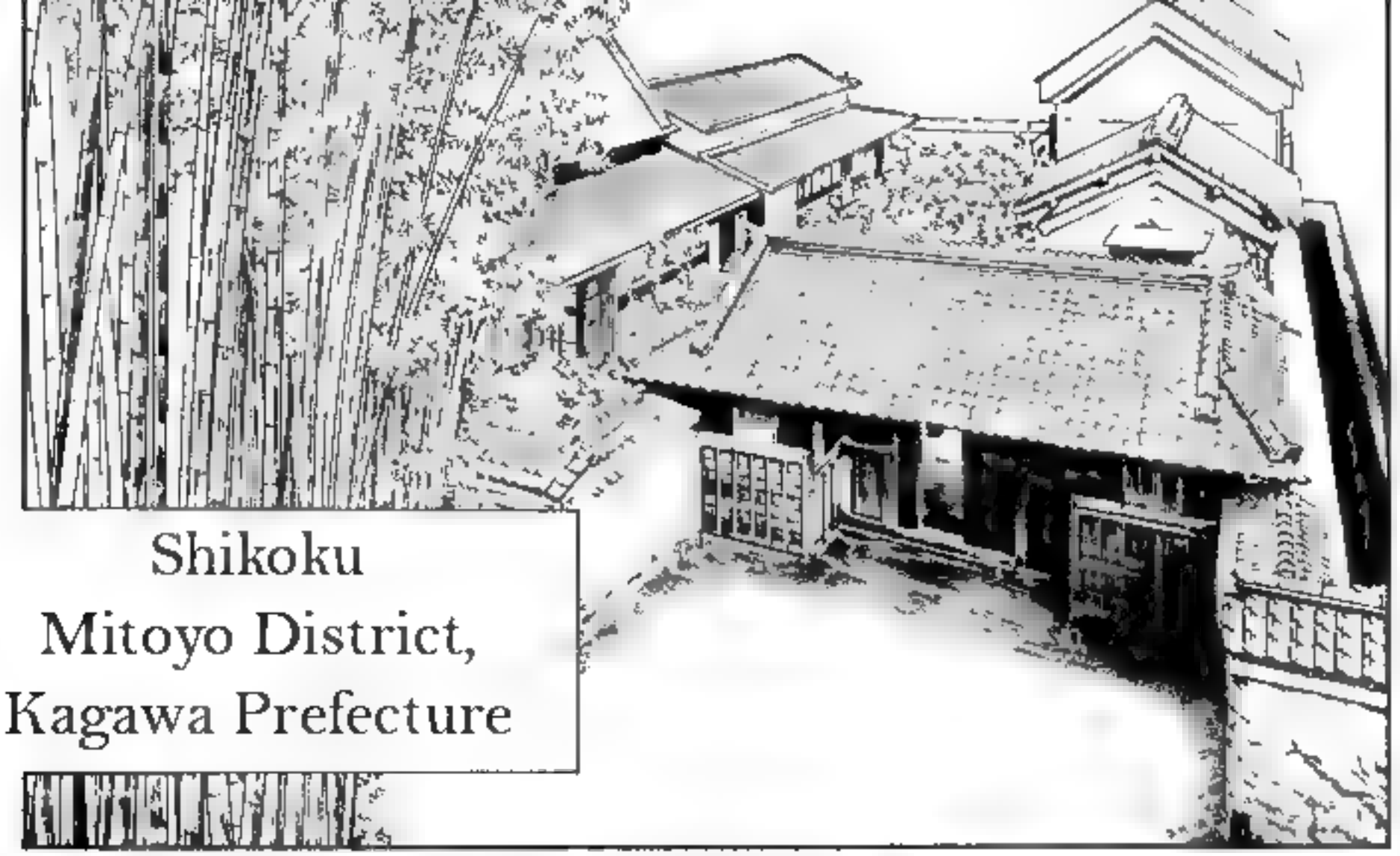
Kagu-yahime

Sanu ki no Miya tsuko .

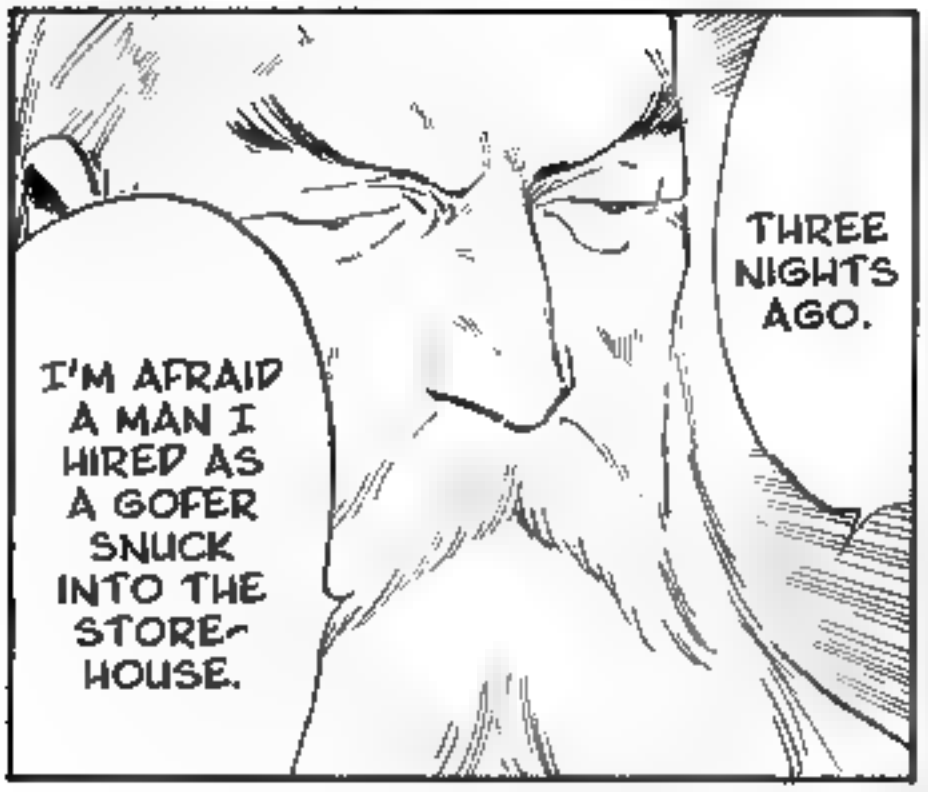
Bam-boo .

and Prin cess Kaguya





Shikoku
Mitoyo District,
Kagawa Prefecture


I'M AFRAID A MAN I HIRED AS A GOFER SNUCK INTO THE STORE-HOUSE.
THREE NIGHTS AGO.

STOLEN !?

LET ME SEE.
THIS MORNING, THERE WAS AN ENVELOPE IN THE MAILBOX CONTAINING A BOASTING PHOTOGRAPH OF THE STOLEN OBJECT.

"TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER"... THAT'S THE ORIGINAL ANONYMOUS STORY OF PRINCESS KAGUYA.

AND KI-NO-TSURAYUKI IS A HEIAN-PERIOD POET LONG SAID TO BE ONE OF THE LIKELY AUTHORS!

TALE OF THE BAM-BOO CUTTER ...

KI-NO-TSURA-YUKI...

THIS WAS A UNIQUE AND SECRET RELIC PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE INBE OF SANUKI...

KI-NO-TSURAYUKI'S "TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER"...

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IF IT'S REAL, ITS VALUE AS A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT AND LITER-ARY WORK WOULD BE IMMEASUR-ABLE!

Y...YOU DON'T MEAN THAT THIS WAS THE AUTHENTIC ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT OF THE "TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER"... PENNED BY KI-NO-TSURAYUKI HIMSELF!?

Known as the editor of the "Kokin Wakashu" and a first rate poet, Ki no Tsurayuki was also a public servant appointed as Director of Tosa, and spent five years in Shikoku. He later penned the "Chronicles of Tosa".

I HAVE HEARD THAT HE WROTE THE "TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER" TO STAVE OFF BOREDOM IN THOSE TIMES.

DURING HIS DAYS AS DIRECTOR OF TOSA, HE WAS ON INTIMATE TERMS WITH THE INBE CLAN OF SANUKI,

T...THAT REMINDS ME THAT ACCORDING TO INBE-NO-HIROARI'S "KOGO SHUI", THE INBE OF SANUKI WOULD PRESENT THE IMPERIAL COURT WITH MANY BAMBOO POLES EVERY YEAR...

PERHAPS "SANUKI-NO-MIYATSUKO", THE OLD BAMBOO-CUTTER THAT RAISED PRINCESS KAGUYA, AND "INBE-NO-AKITA", HER GODFATHER, COINCIDED WITH THEM.

HYUGA
OSAKABE CLAN

THE SENDER OF THE ENVELOPE CONTAINING THE PICTURE APPEARS TO BE THE ONE THAT STOLE THE BOOK.

I'M FAIRLY SURE THAT THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE OSAK-ABE CLAN ...

I...I WAS INVOLVED IN A CONFLICT SURROUNDING ANCIENT HEMP IN MIYAZAKI*.

HYUGA, OSA-KABE ...!!

*REFER TO THE TITULAR STORY OF THE SPECIAL VOLUME "KAMUNABI".

THEY ARE MOST LIKELY DESCEN-DANTS OF THE "HYUGA HAYATO".

THE INBE AND HAYATO HAVE DEEP TIES... I HAVE HEARD THAT THIS BAMBOO GROVE WAS ORIGINALLY TRANSPLANTED FROM KYUSHU BY THE HAYATO.

THE MAINLINE INBE ORIGINALLY WROTE THEIR NAME WITH THE CHARACTER "忌", BUT CHANGED IT TO "斎" IN THE HEIAN PERIOD AS THE FORMER WAS DEEMED OMINOUS.

BUT THAT DOES NOT MAKE THEM ANY LESS RELATED TO YOUR CLAN, THE IZUMO INBE... IS THAT CORRECT?

SINCE THE BOOK IN QUESTION WAS A SECRET TREASURE, WE CANNOT EVEN PUBLICIZE ITS THEFT.

WELL, OF COURSE...

THAT'S THE REASON I CONTACTED YOU AND CAME HERE ON MY WAY BACK FROM KAGOSHIMA...

WHATEVER THE DEAL THOSE THAT MAY CLAIM TO BE THE DESCENDANTS OF THE HAYATO MAY PROPOSE, WE MUST PROTECT IT...

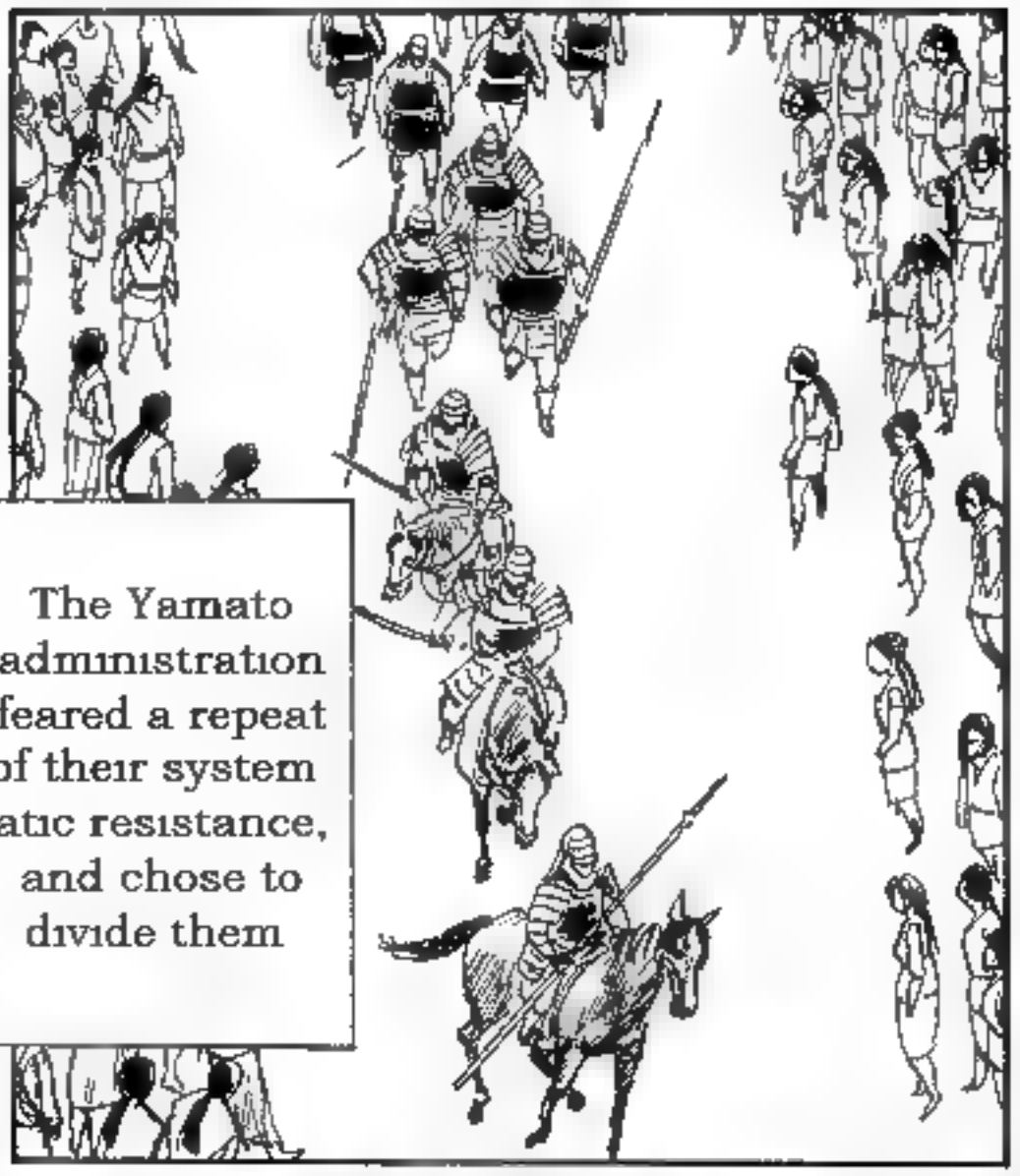
THIS IS A MATTER OF THE HONOR OF THE INBE, THE ANCIENT PRIESTHOOD CLAN.

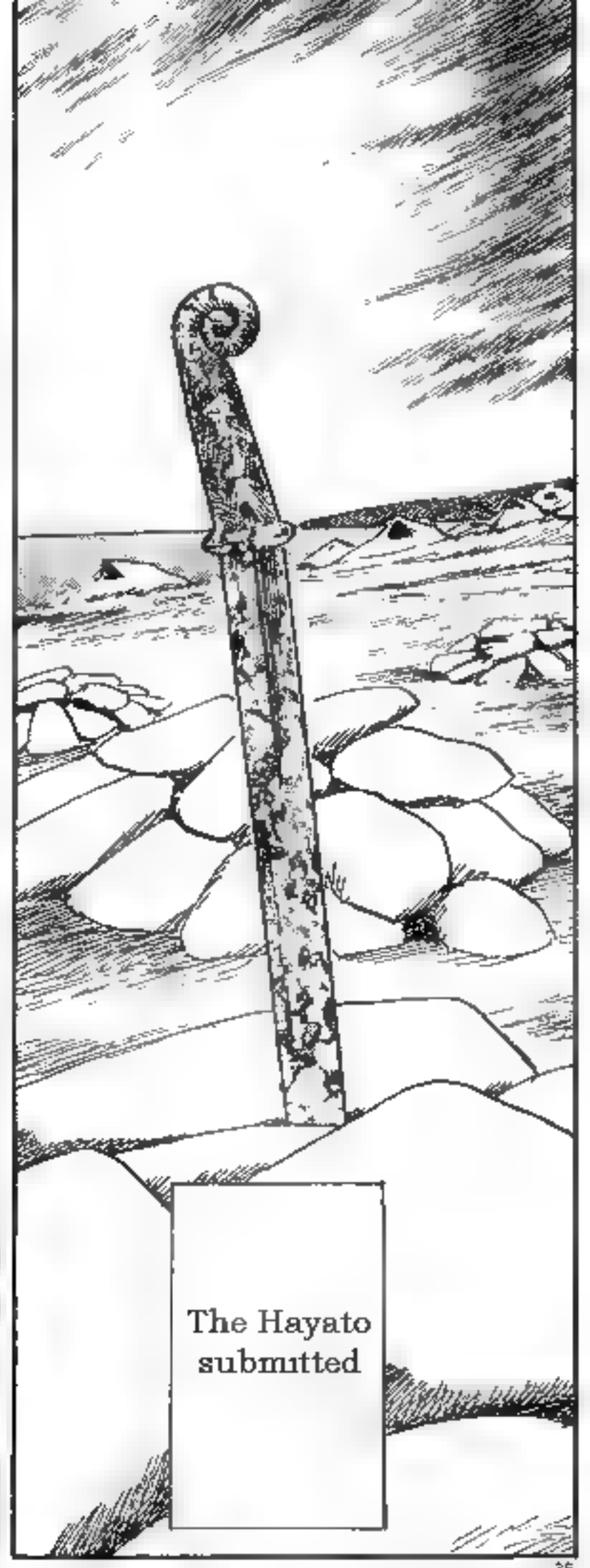
THEY MAY INTEND TO REQUEST THAT YOU MEDIATE.

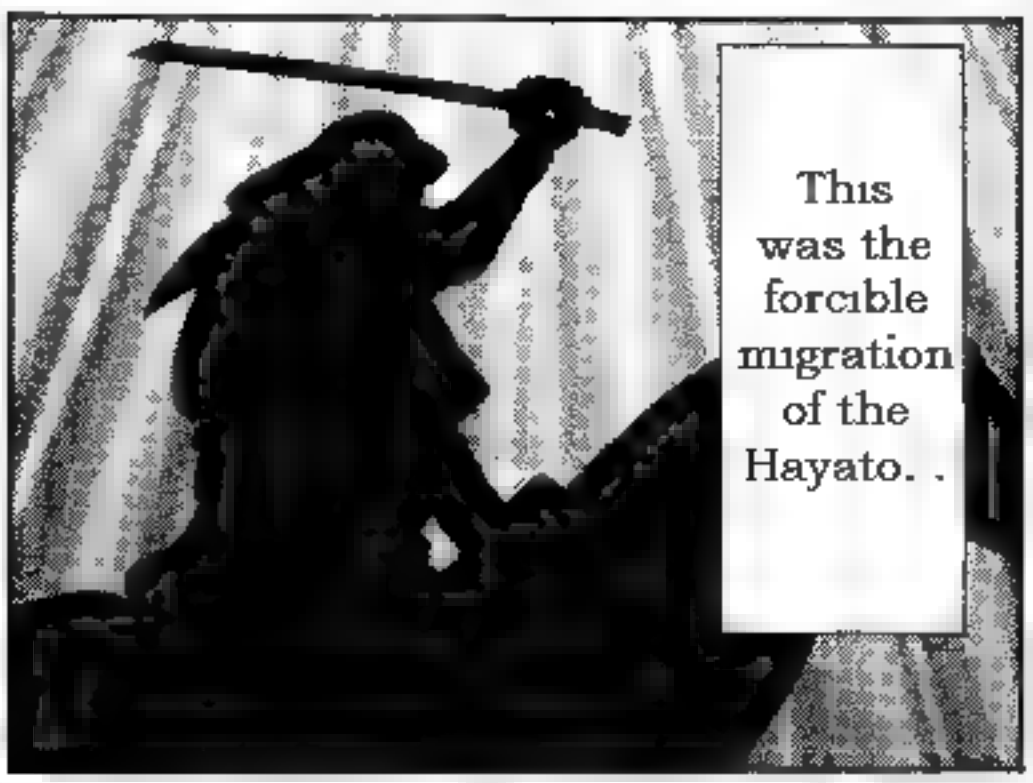
KANA, WILL YOU DO A FAVOR FOR THE CLAN?

But the day came when they finally gave in

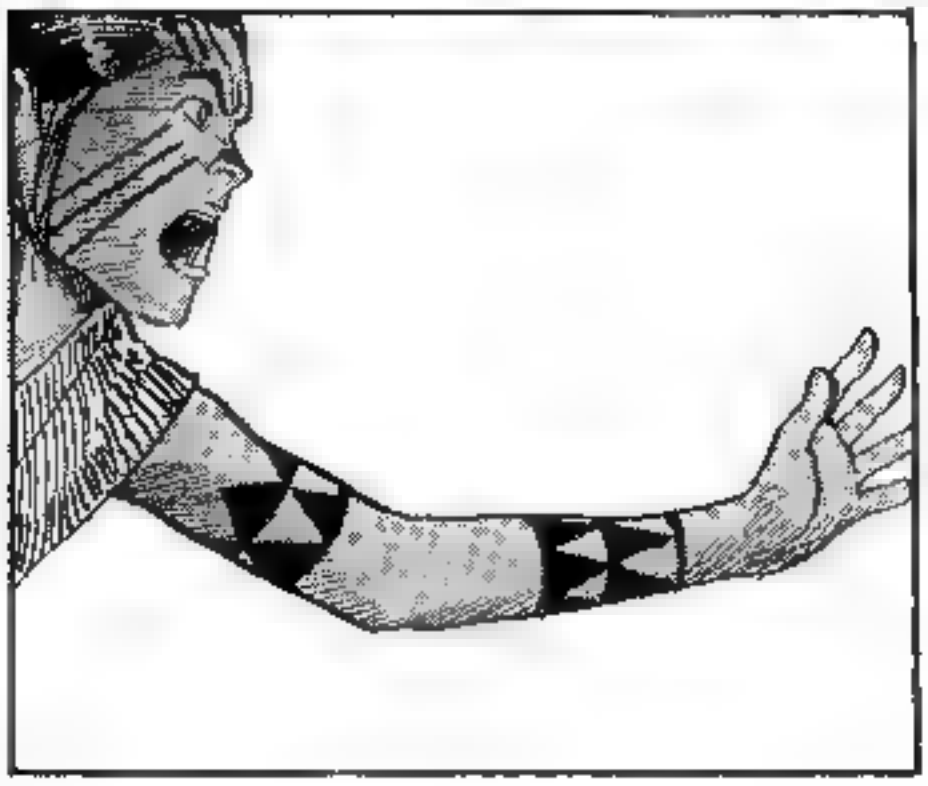
Ancient Kyushu . While the North had already submitted to the Yamato forces, the Hayato of South Kyushu rejected their rule and resisted for centuries


The Yamato administration feared a repeat of their systematic resistance, and chose to divide them


The Hayato submitted


This was the forcible migration of the Hayato. .

35



This is thought to have been around the late seventh century

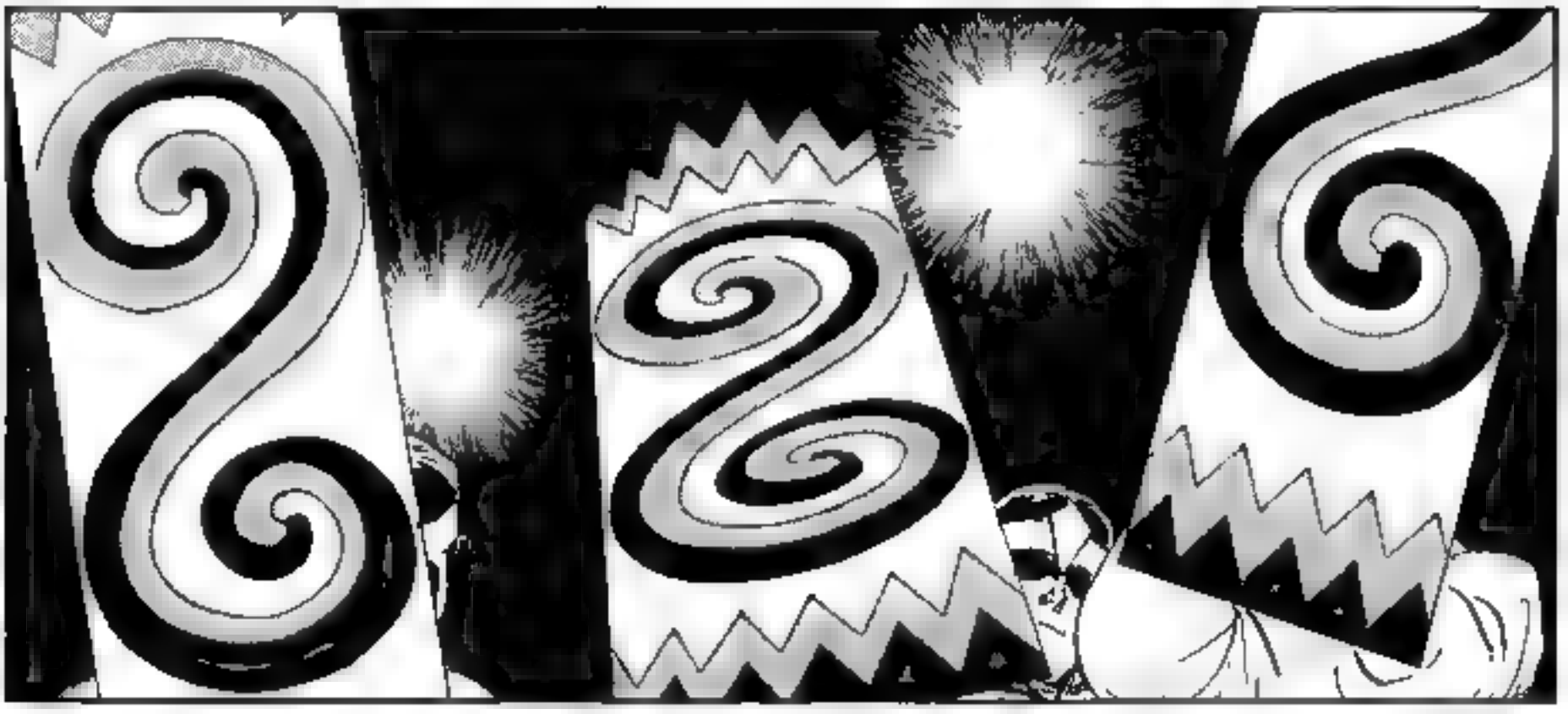
They were eternally torn apart by a rigorous land route scores of days long.

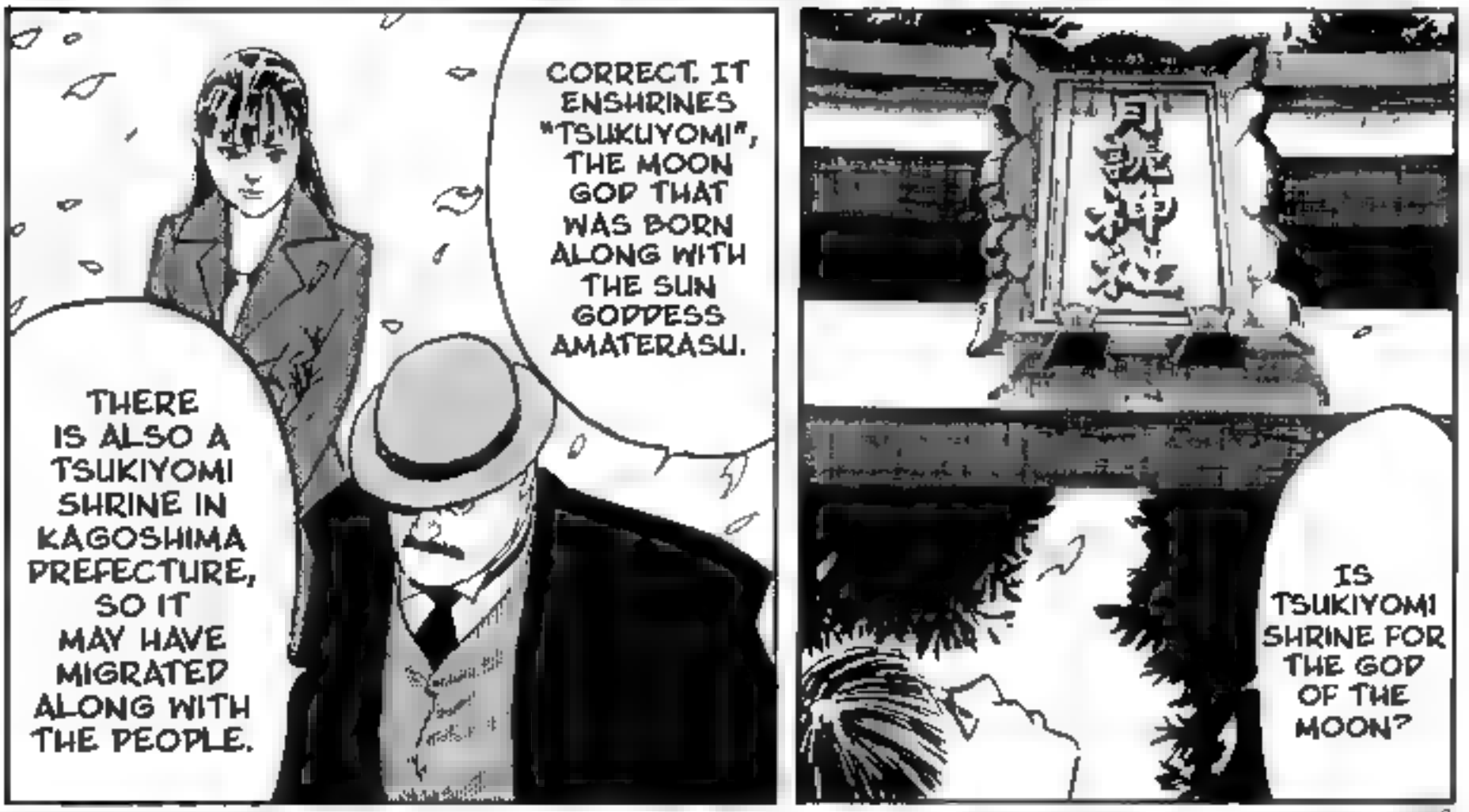
The scale of this migration is unknown due to a lack of records, but a good number of the Hayato were forced to migrate from South Kyushu to the Kinai region.

Osumi, Kyotanabe City,
Kyoto Prefecture
Tsukiyomi Shrine

TSUKIYOMI SHRINE IN TSUZUKI IS SAID TO BE THE HAYATO DANCE'S PLACE OF ORIGIN, AND YOU CAN STILL SEE A RESTORED VERSION OF THE DANCE TODAY.

THE HAYATO THAT MIGRATED TO THE KINAI REGION WERE TASKED WITH GUARDING THE PALACE AND "DANCING" AT RITUALS. THIS BECAME THE "HAYATO DANCE".




CORRECT. IT ENSHRINES "TSUKUYOMI", THE MOON GOD THAT WAS BORN ALONG WITH THE SUN GODDESS AMATERASU.
THERE IS ALSO A TSUKIYOMI SHRINE IN KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE, SO IT MAY HAVE MIGRATED ALONG WITH THE PEOPLE.
IS TSUKIYOMI SHRINE FOR THE GOD OF THE MOON?

THEY APPEARED TO HAVE A SPECIAL CUSTOM ON THE FIFTEENTH NIGHT OF THE EIGHTH MONTH.
TO THIS DAY, THEY HOLD THE "FIFTEENTH NIGHT SORAYOI" OR THE "FIFTEENTH NIGHT DANCE" IN KAGO-SHIMA.

THE SAME GOES FOR THE "BAMBOO", AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE "TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER". THEIR ORIGINAL HABITAT IN JAPAN WAS SOUTH KYUSHU, AND THEY DID NOT EXIST IN HONSHU.

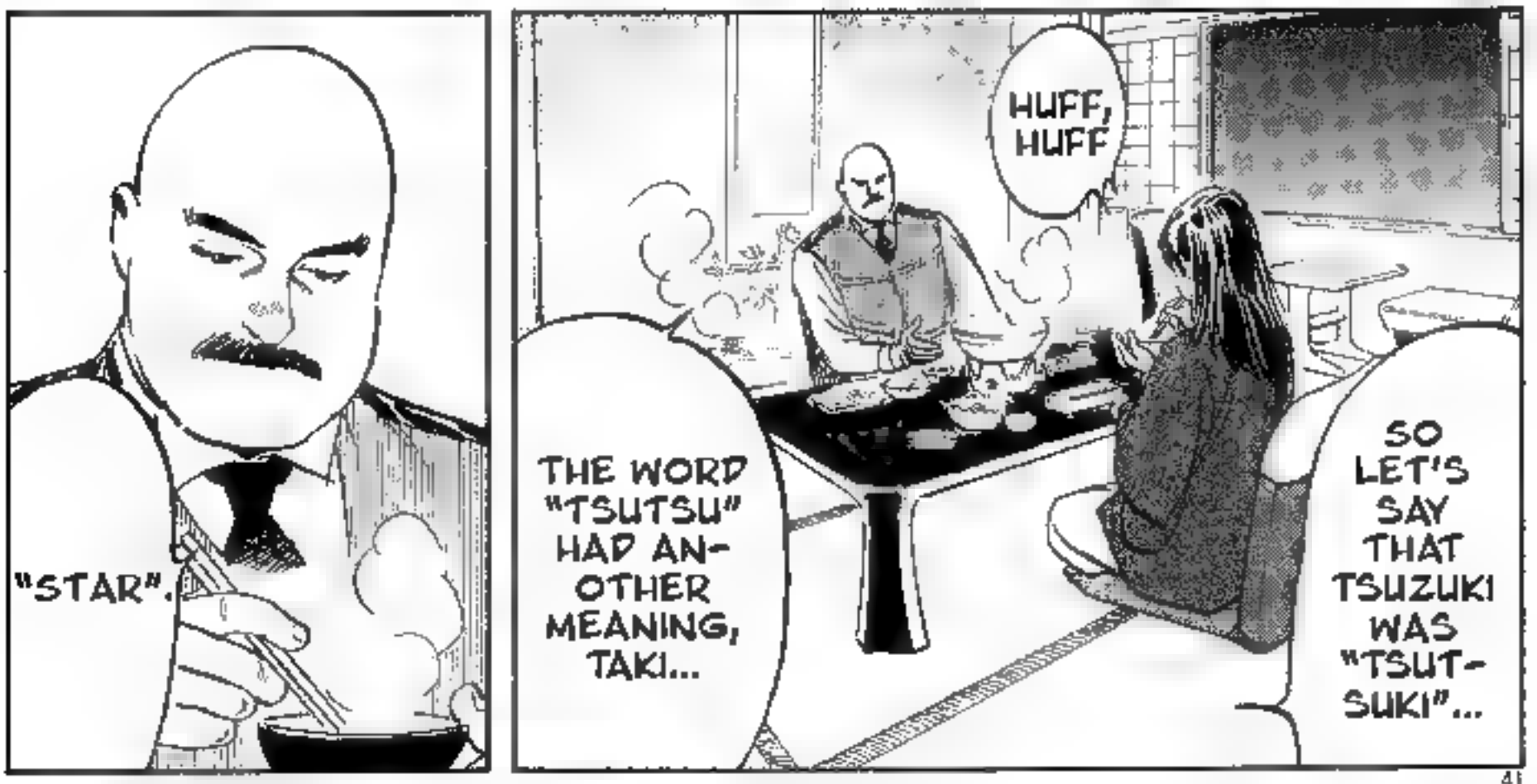
IN OTHER WORDS, THE SOUTH KYUSHU HAYATO'S MOON GOD FAITH MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE ORIGIN POINTS FOR THE TRADITION OF PRINCESS KAGUYA.

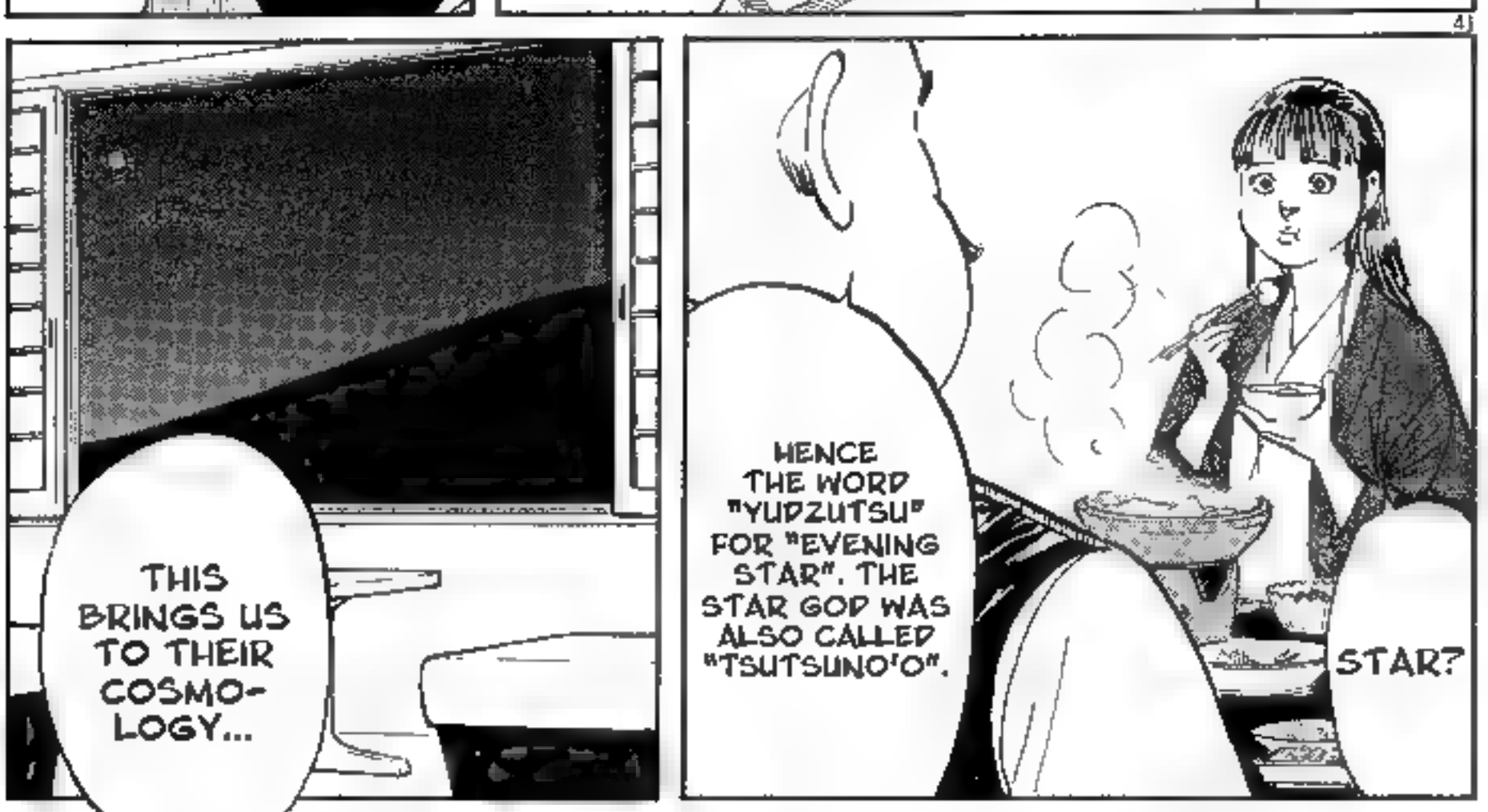
Y...YOU MEAN THAT THE LEGEND WAS REALLY BASED ON THE "KAGUYAHIME" OF THE KOJIKI, HERE IN TSUZUKI...?

YOU COULD VERY WELL SAY THAT THE DISTRIBUTION OF BAMBOO SPREAD WITH THE MIGRATION OF THE HAYATO. IT WOULD BE NATURAL TO ASSUME THAT THE COMPLETION OF THE "TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER" COINCIDED WITH IT.

HMM...

I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD DIE!


"STAR".
HUFF, HUFF
THE WORD "TSUTSU" HAD ANOTHER MEANING, TAKI...
SO LET'S SAY THAT TSUZUKI WAS "TSUTSUKI"...
4


THIS BRINGS US TO THEIR COSMOLOGY...
HENCE THE WORD "YUDZUTSU" FOR "EVENING STAR". THE STAR GOD WAS ALSO CALLED "TSUTSUNO'O".
STAR?

The ancient Chinese thought that the universe was structured like an egg, with a spherical shell. This is called the "Huntian Theory".

The sun and moon revolved within this celestial sphere, [illegible] and [illegible] time with the stars

They believed that the shell, or celestial [illegible] made daily [illegible] stars were holes in this firmament

I would assume that it was easier for seafaring folk like the Hayato to imagine a celestial sphere that rose from the ocean and descended in the ocean

It would not be surprising that the Japanese would have had a nearly identical cosmology.

ULP!

NOW, HERE'S THE PROB-LEM, TAK!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD FIND OUTSIDE IT?

NOW, IF YOU COULD BREAK OUT OF THIS CE-LESTIAL SPHERE...

LET'S ASSUME THE ANCIENT BELIEF THAT OUR WORLD IS ON THE INSIDE OF THIS ROTATING CELESTIAL SPHERE.

O... OUTSIDE THE CE-LESTIAL SPHERE ...?

THINK ABOUT IT. NIGHT AND DAY COME BECAUSE THIS CELESTIAL SPHERE RO-TATES... WHAT WOULD THAT MAKE THE OUTSIDE?

PRECISELY... IT WOULD BE A WORLD WITHOUT TIME!

A WORLD WITHOUT TIME...!?

A WORLD WITH-OUT DAY OR NIGHT...

A WORLD THAT EXISTS ETERNALLY AS IT IS... HENCE THE NAME "TOKOYO".

WITHOUT TIME, THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGING SEASONS, AND PEOPLE WOULD NOT AGE OR DIE...

THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE PROBLEM OF "TIME" IN THE TALES OF PRINCESS KAGUYA AND URASHIMA HAD LOGICAL CONSISTENCY.

WHEN SOMEONE GOES OUTSIDE THE CELESTIAL SPHERE TO TOKOYO, THE CELESTIAL SPHERE WOULD KEEP TURNING UNAWARE TO THEM. CENTURIES MAY HAVE PASSED WHEN THEY RETURNED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, TO A BEING THAT DESCENDED FROM TOKOYO TO OUR WORLD, TWENTY YEARS WOULD BE A BLINK OF AN EYE.

HIS NAME WAS "SHI-MAKO OF TSUTSU-KAWA". HERE WE FIND ANOTHER "TSUTSU".

NOW... YOU KNOW ABOUT "URASHIMA TARO", RIGHT? THE OLDEST FORM OF THAT STORY IS "URA-NO-SHIMAKO", IN THE "CHRONICLES OF TANGO PROVINCE".

Shimako, from Tsutsukawa Village in Tango, rode out alone on his boat to fish

And while he slept, that turtle

Three days later, he caught a mysterious five colored turtle

He was led by the woman who said she was of "Tokoyo", and reached a large island

Another eight children emerged, and they called the woman by her name, "Kamehime"

By the gate were seven children.

Kamehime told Shimako that the seven children were "Subaru", and the eight children were "Amefuri", then invited Shimako inside the gate .

Amefuri is a group of eight stars, also called the "Hyades" ..

Subaru is a group of seven stars, also known as the "Pleiades"

PERHAPS, THE WORLD URASHIMA WENT TO AND PRINCESS KAGUYA'S HOMELAND WERE THE SAME PLACE IN THE END...?

HAVING TRAVELLED TO THE ENDS OF THE OCEAN, SHIMAKO HAD MET THE STARS AND PASSED THROUGH THE GATES TO TOKOYO!

Kyotanabe City,
Kyoto Prefecture
Mt. Kannabi

MT. KAN-NABI...

YES. THIS IS ONE OF THE KAMUNABI MOUNTAINS, TO WHICH YOU HAVE A CONNE-CTION.

SO WE'VE CALLED YOU HERE TO REUNITE WITH YOU ON ANOTHER KAMUNABI MOUNTAIN.

THE LAST TIME WE CONFRONTED, IT WAS ON MT. MIWA, A MOUNTAIN ON [illegible] CAUSABIS WAS GROWN IN ANCIENT TIMES...

WHY DID YOU STEAL KI-NO-TSURAYUKI'S "TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER"?

YOU'RE THE OSAKABE CLAN DESCENDANTS OF THE HYUGA HAYATO, I PRESUME?

IT WAS YOU WHO STOLE IT!!

STOLE IT?

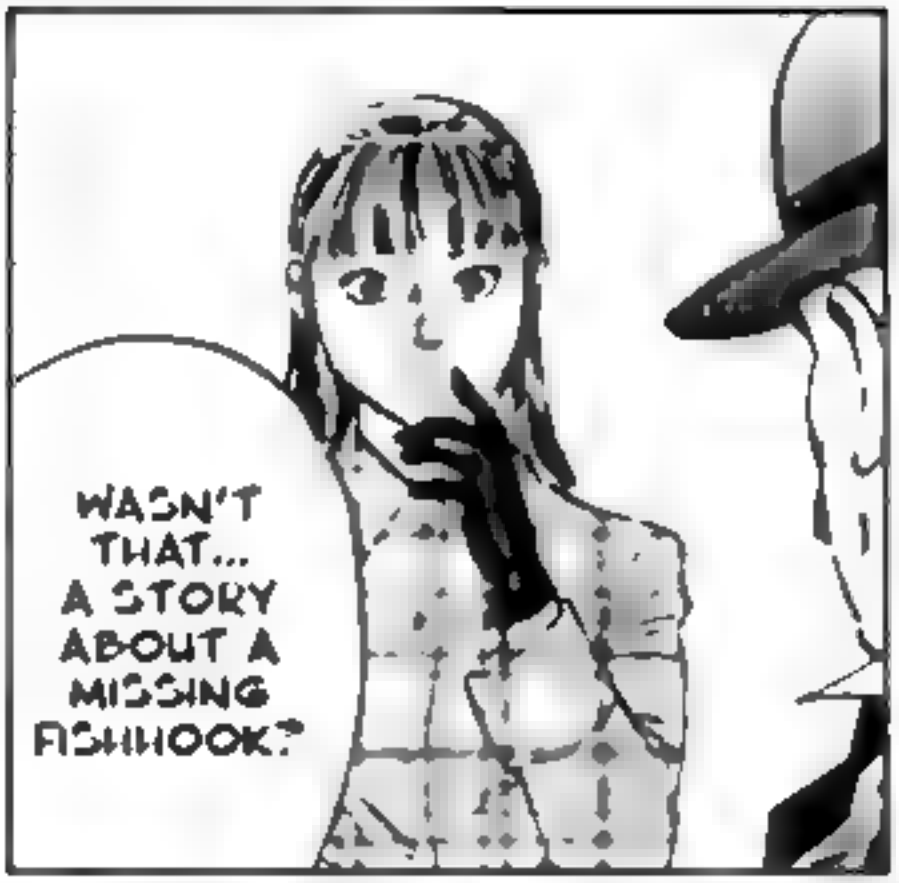
THE SANUKI INBE TOOK THE LEGEND PASSED DOWN BY OUR HAYATO ANCESTORS, FOR KI-NO-TSURAYUKI TO REWRITE.

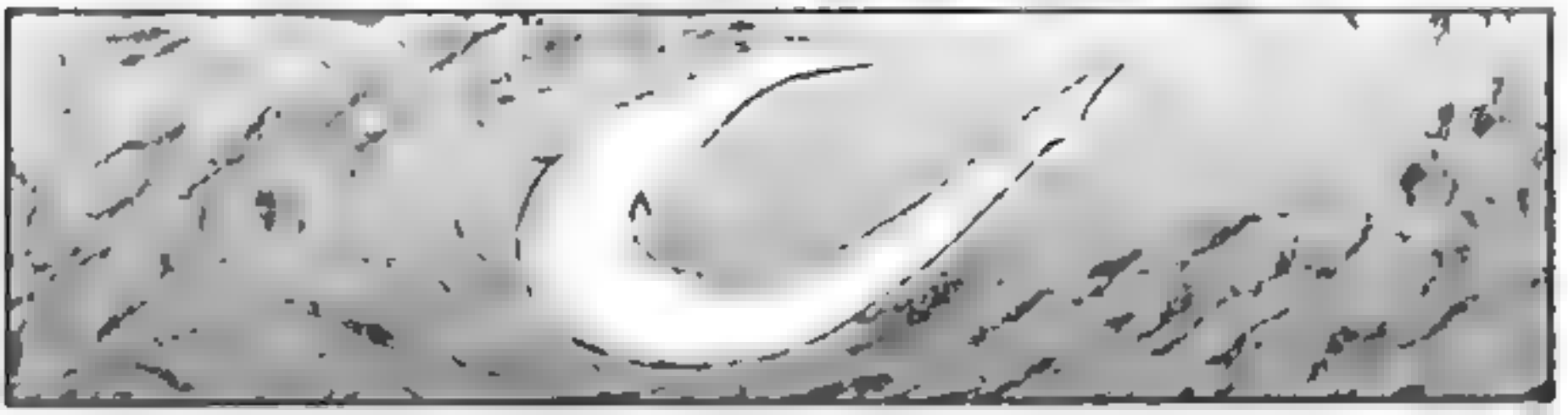
Northeast Foot
of Mt. Kannabi
Takıgı Shrine

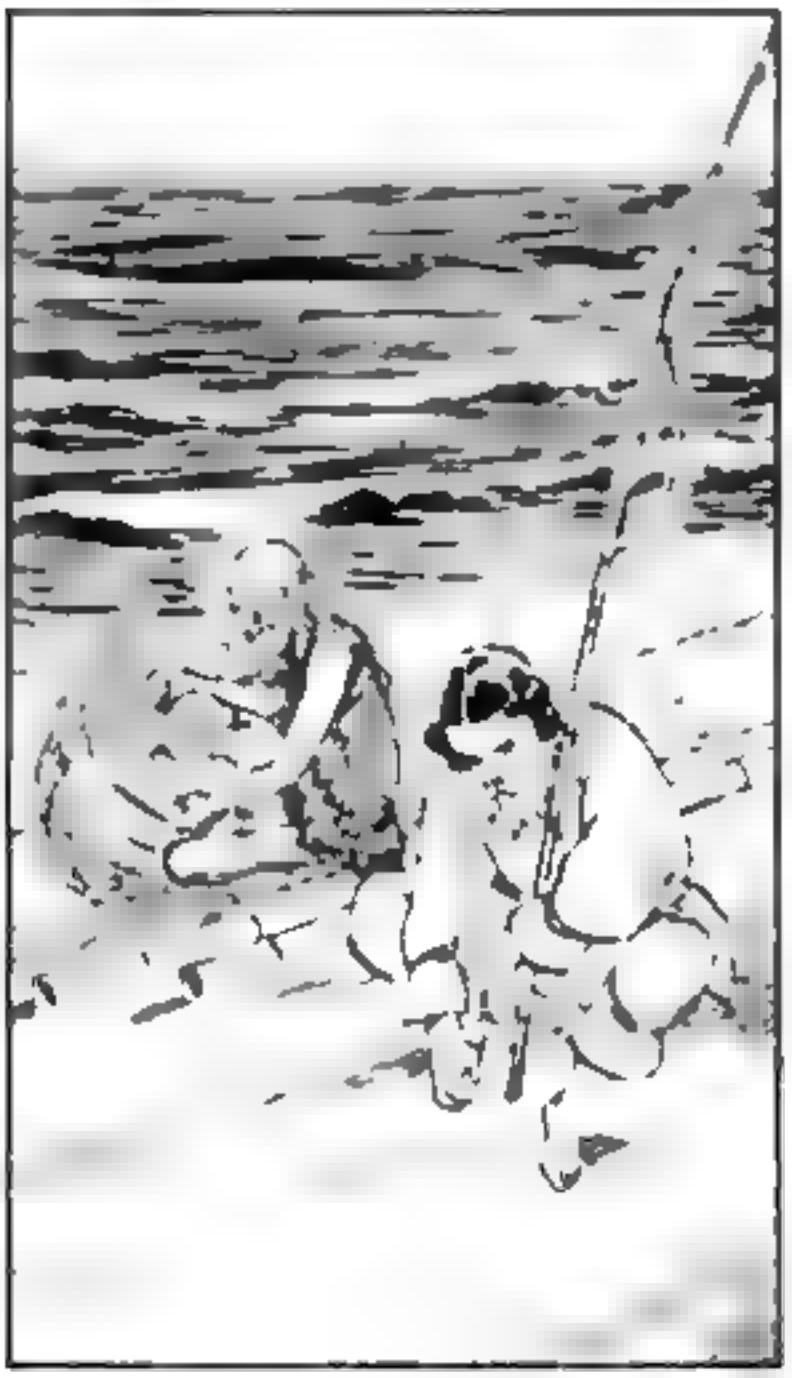
THE TSUKIYOMI SHRINE WE STOPPED BY YESTERDAY WAS ALSO AT THE FOOT OF MT. KANNABI, AND WAS THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF THE HAYATO DANCE, BUT THIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF THE "TAKIGI NOH".

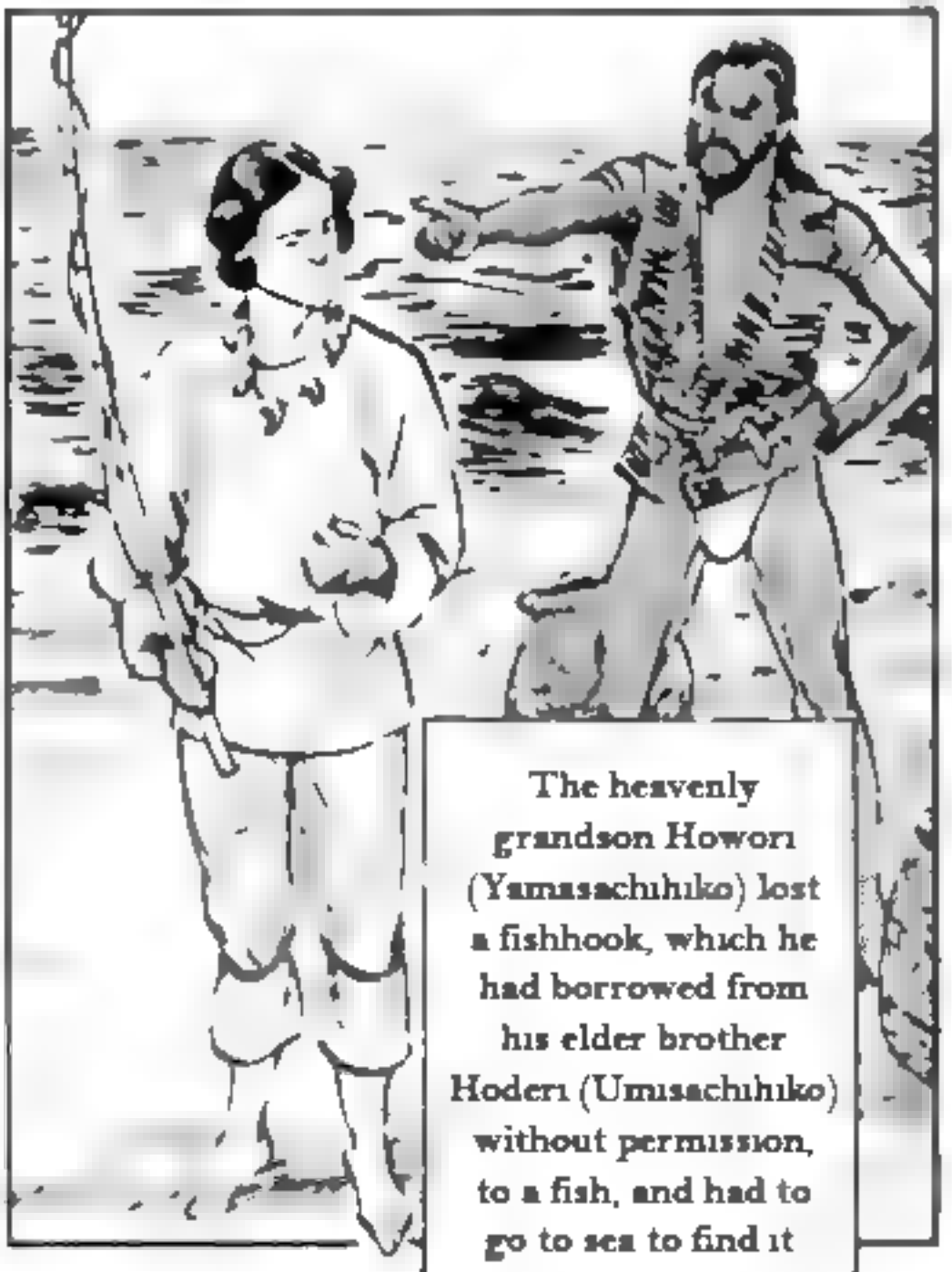
THAT "YOGO STONE" IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE MATERIAL-IZATION OF THE MOON GOD ON THE PEAK OF MT. KANNABI.

THIS AREA IS SAID TO BE A HAYATO MIGRA-TORY SITE AS WELL, AND THEY SEEMED TO HAVE SHARED THEIR MOON FAITH.



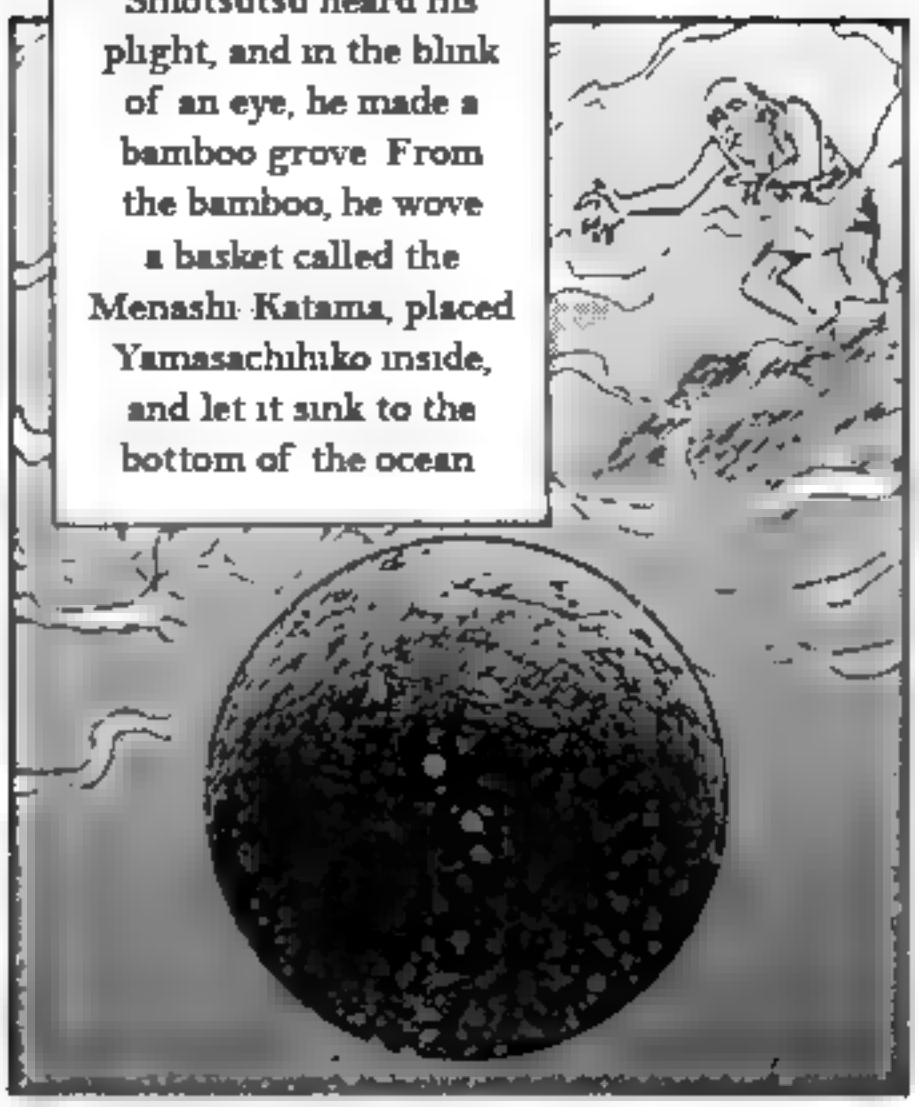






The heavenly grandson Howori (Yamasachihiko) lost a fishhook, which he had borrowed from his elder brother Hoderi (Umisachihiko) without permission, to a fish, and had to go to sea to find it

An old man named Shiotsutsu heard his plight, and in the blink of an eye, he made a bamboo grove From the bamboo, he wove a basket called the Menashi-Katama, placed Yamasachihiko inside, and let it sink to the bottom of the ocean



Yamasachihiko was welcomed to "Watatsumi s Palace" at the bottom of the sea Not only did he find the fishhook, but he also married the sea god Watatsumi's daughter, Toyotamahime

But after he had spent three years there, Yamasachihiko was overwhelmed by homesickness and became dejected

Watatsumi presented Yamasachihiko with two treasures, the "Shiomitsutama" and the "Shiohirutama", and sent him on his way

Yamasachihiko commanded the ocean tides with the Shiomitsutama and Shiohiru-tama, and forced Umisachihiko to submit

Umisachihiko of Hyuga was the ancestor of the Hayato, and since then they have performed dances that imitate his drowning, swearing their fealty to the Emperor This is the origin of the Hayato Dance

THE MYTH MAKES YAMASACHIHIKO THE MAIN CHARACTER, CONNECTED TO THE IMPERIAL LINE, BUT THIS MAY BE BECAUSE THEY RECOMPOSED THE STORY TO LEGITIMIZE THE SUBJUGATION OF THE HAYATO.

THAT SOUNDS JUST LIKE THE STORY OF URASHIMA TARO.

IT WAS ORIGINALLY THE HAYATO "UMISACHI-HIKO" THAT WENT TO WATATSUMI'S PALACE...

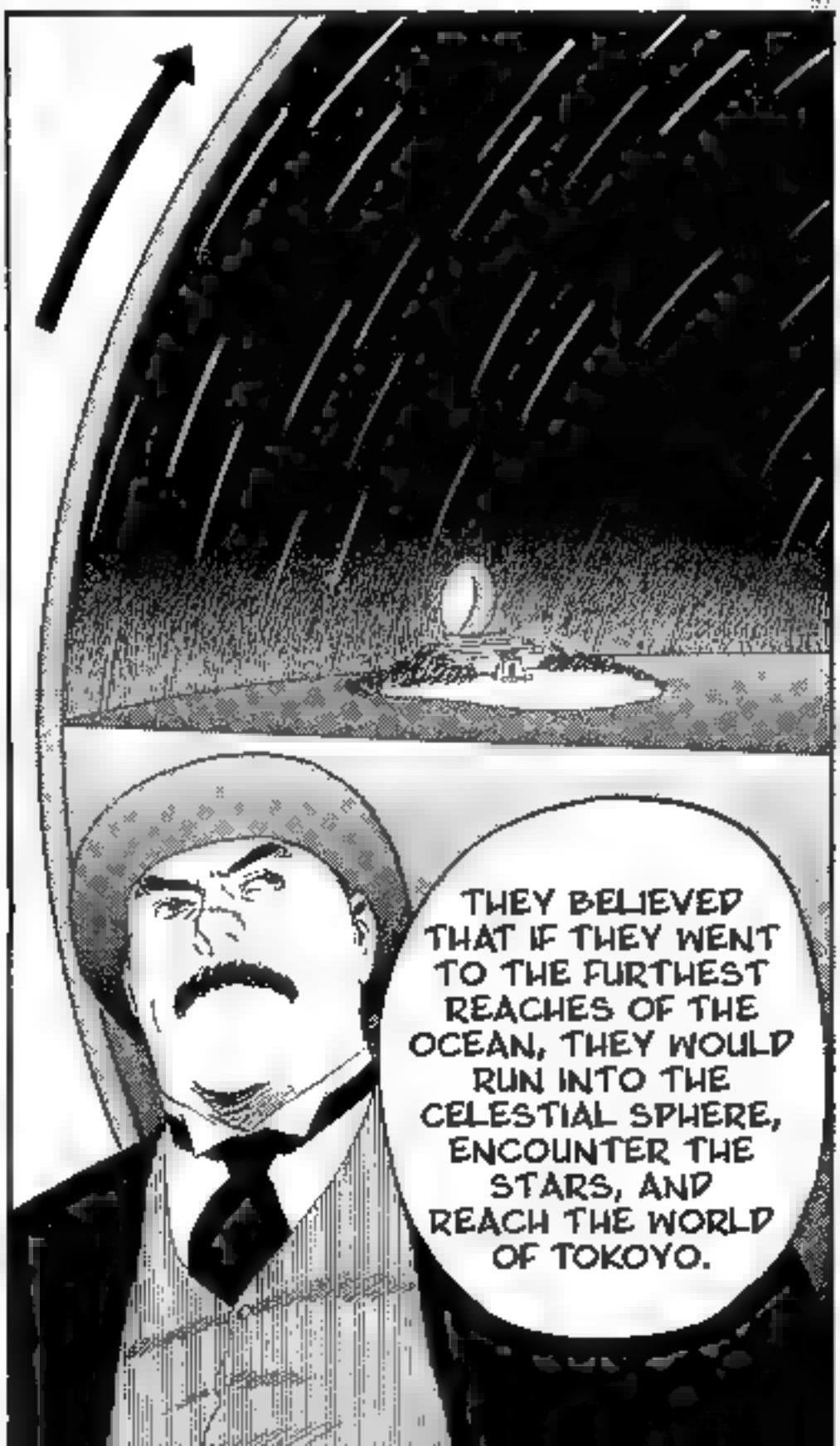
YOU COULD SAY THAT JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY STOLE THE HAYATO'S LEG-ENDS, ALONG WITH THEIR PRIDE...

AS A MATTER OF FACT, NARRATIVES INVOLVING GOING TO FIND A MISS-ING FISHHOOK HAD SPREAD GLOBALLY, FROM THE PACIFIC RIM TO THE INLANDS.

THE HAYATO CLAN WAS AMONG THE CULTURAL SPHERE OF THE SEAFARING PEOPLE. PERHAPS THE HUNTIAN COSMOLOGY ALSO CAME THROUGH THE SEA.

Distribution of Missing Fishhook Narratives

IT COULD BE THAT THE MOON, WHICH CONTROLS THE EARTH'S TIDES, WAS WATATSUMI'S SHIOMITSU-TAMA AND SHIOHIRU-TAMA...
THEY MAY HAVE EVEN THOUGHT OF IT AS THE "GATE" IN THE CELESTIAL SPHERE.

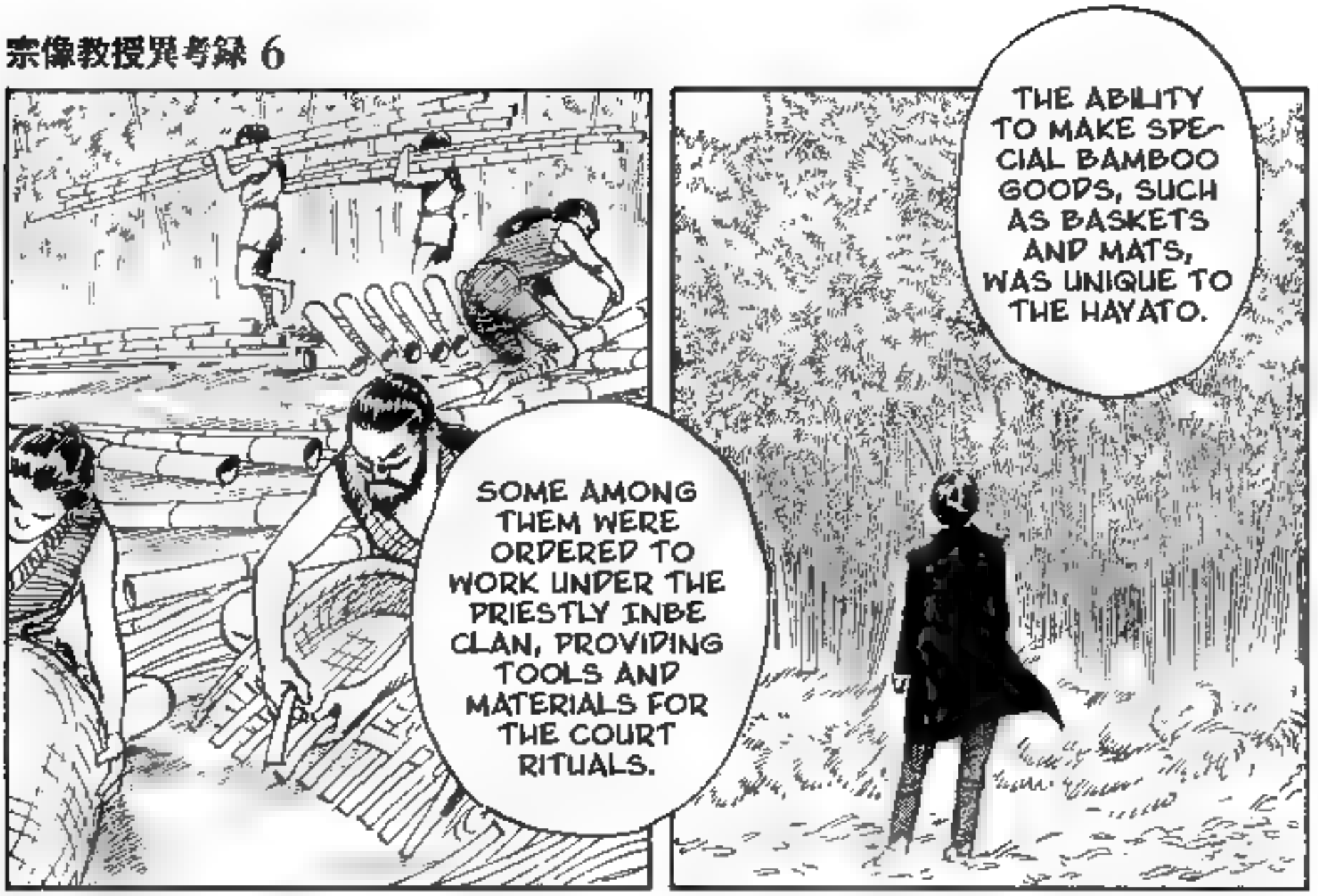

THEY BELIEVED THAT IF THEY WENT TO THE FURTHEST REACHES OF THE OCEAN, THEY WOULD RUN INTO THE CELESTIAL SPHERE, ENCOUNTER THE STARS, AND REACH THE WORLD OF TOKOYO.

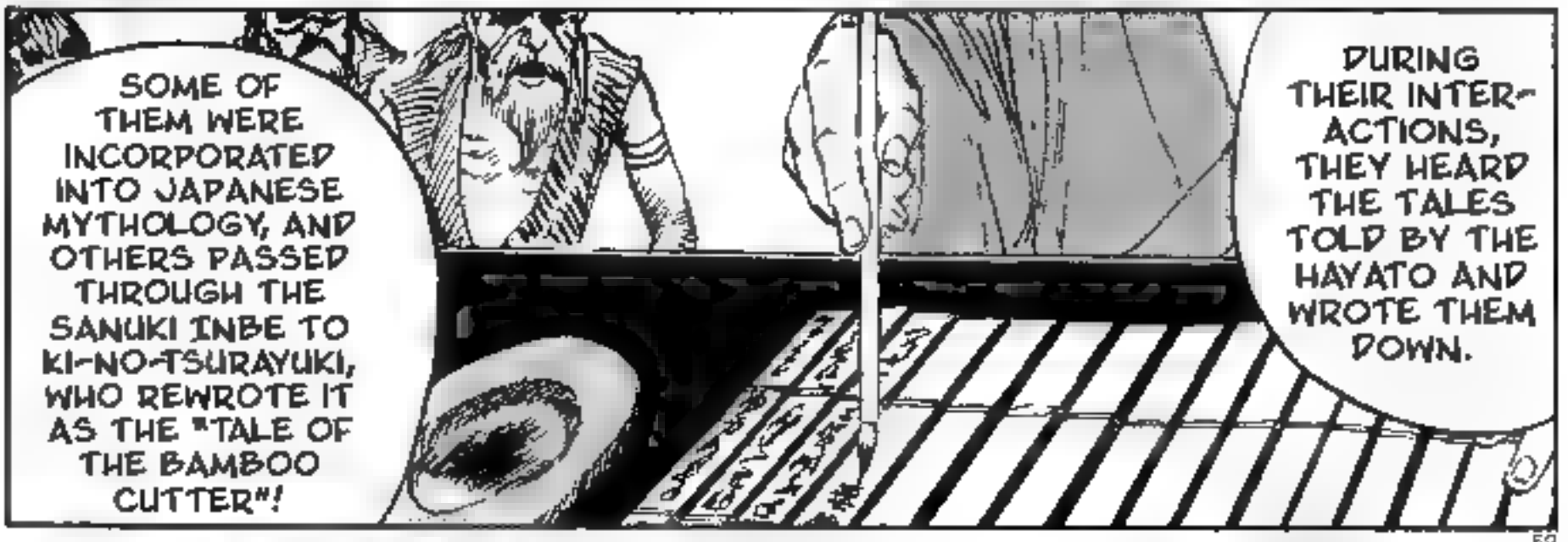
SOMETIMES OPEN, SOMETIMES CLOSED...

LIKE LOOKING UP AT THE SKY FROM THE BOTTOM OF A WELL, THE MOON BORED A HOLE INTO THE CELESTIAL SPHERE, AND WAS REGARDED AS A GATE TO THE OUTSIDE.

ONE OF THE ROLES OF THE HAYATO FORCED TO LIVE IN THE KINAI REGION WAS TO MAKE WARES FROM BAMBOO.

THEY BELIEVED THAT BAMBOO HAD THE SPIRITUAL POWER TO WARD OFF EVIL.


SOME AMONG THEM WERE ORDERED TO WORK UNDER THE PRIESTLY INBE CLAN, PROVIDING TOOLS AND MATERIALS FOR THE COURT RITUALS.
THE ABILITY TO MAKE SPECIAL BAMBOO GOODS, SUCH AS BASKETS AND MATS, WAS UNIQUE TO THE HAYATO.


SOME OF THEM WERE INCORPORATED INTO JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY, AND OTHERS PASSED THROUGH THE SANUKI INBE TO KI-NO-TSURAYUKI, WHO REWROTE IT AS THE "TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER"!
DURING THEIR INTERACTIONS, THEY HEARD THE TALES TOLD BY THE HAYATO AND WROTE THEM DOWN.

NOT ONLY WERE THEY SEPARATED, BUT THE HAYATO, WHO HAD NO WRITTEN LANGUAGE OF THEIR OWN, LOST THEIR LEGENDS OVER THE YEARS!
WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO RECLAIM WHAT WAS STOLEN FROM US!!

I BELIEVE THAT THE TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER WAS SYNTHE-SIZED FROM MULTIPLE ELEMENTS.

I CAN'T SIMPLY SAY THAT THE ROOTS WERE HERE IN TSUZUKI.

Tibet Autono m ous Region, "Banzhu Guniang"

STRANGELY ENOUGH, THERE ARE SEVERAL LEGENDS AMONG THE DISTRIBUTION RANGE OF LOST FISHHOOK NARRATIVES THAT FEATURE A GIRL BORN FROM BAMBOO!

On the banks of the Jinsha River. . a poor young bamboo cutter named Lampa found a crying girl inside a bamboo stalk one day. .

But five sons of landlords, officials, and rich men laid eyes on the maiden, and courted her.

The girl soon grew into a beautiful maiden, and fell in love with Lampa.

The maiden gave each of them an impossible task to find a rare treasure, driving them away

The maiden was wedded to Lampa, and they lived together in happiness

THAT'S EXACTLY LIKE THE FIVE NOBLES THAT COURT PRINCESS KAGUYA IN THE TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER!

I... ISN'T THAT ...?

Sparrow's cowrie	Jewel from a dragon's neck	Fur coat of a fire-rat	Jeweled branch from Mt. Penglai	Buddha's stone begging bowl	"Tale of the Bamboo Cutter"
Sparrow's golden egg	Water-dividing jewel from a dragon's jaw	Unburnable fur coat of a fire-rat	Unbreakable jeweled branch	Golden bell	"Banzhu Guniang"

PRECISELY. THE CONTENTS OF THE TASKS ALSO RESEMBLE ONE ANOTHER, AND EACH OF THEIR FAILURES ARE SO CONSISTENT IT CAN HARDLY BE A COINCIDENCE.

IT ENTIRELY LACKS THE "MOON" COMPONENT, BUT A SIMILAR STORY MUST HAVE BEEN PASSED ON THROUGH CHINA.

THE TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER ALSO MATCHES UP TO SOMETHING ELSE.

IT HAS BEEN NOTED FOR YEARS THAT EACH OF THE FIVE NOBLES IN THE TALE CORRESPOND TO AN ACTUAL 8TH-CENTURY NOBLE.

Actual Nobles	Tale of the Bamboo Cutter
Chief Councillor of State Fujiwara-no-Fuhito	Kurumamochi-no-Miko (Fuhito's mother was of the Kurumamochi clan)
Minister of the Left Tajihi-no-Shima	Ishitsukuri-no-Miko (the Tajihi clan is related to the Ishitsukuri clan,
Chief Councillor of State Isonokami-no-Maro	Chief Councillor of State Isonokami-no-Marotari
Minister of the Right Abe-no-Miushi	Minister of the Right Abe-no-Mimuraji
Chief Councillor of State Otomo-no-Miyuki	Chief Councillor of State Otomo-no-Miyuki

BASED THIS STORY OFF OF THE LEGENDS OF THE MOON AND BAMBOO PASSED DOWN BY THE HAYATO, INGENIOUSLY INCORPORATING "BANZHU GUNIANG", AND FURTHERMORE ADAPTING THE NAMES TO COINCIDE WITH HISTORICAL FIGURES...!

THIS MEANS THAT SOME-ONE...

LIKEWISE, THE KI CLAN LOST ITS FORMER PROSPERITY, AND THE BEST THE AGED TSURAYUKI COULD DO WAS ASSUME THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF TOSA.

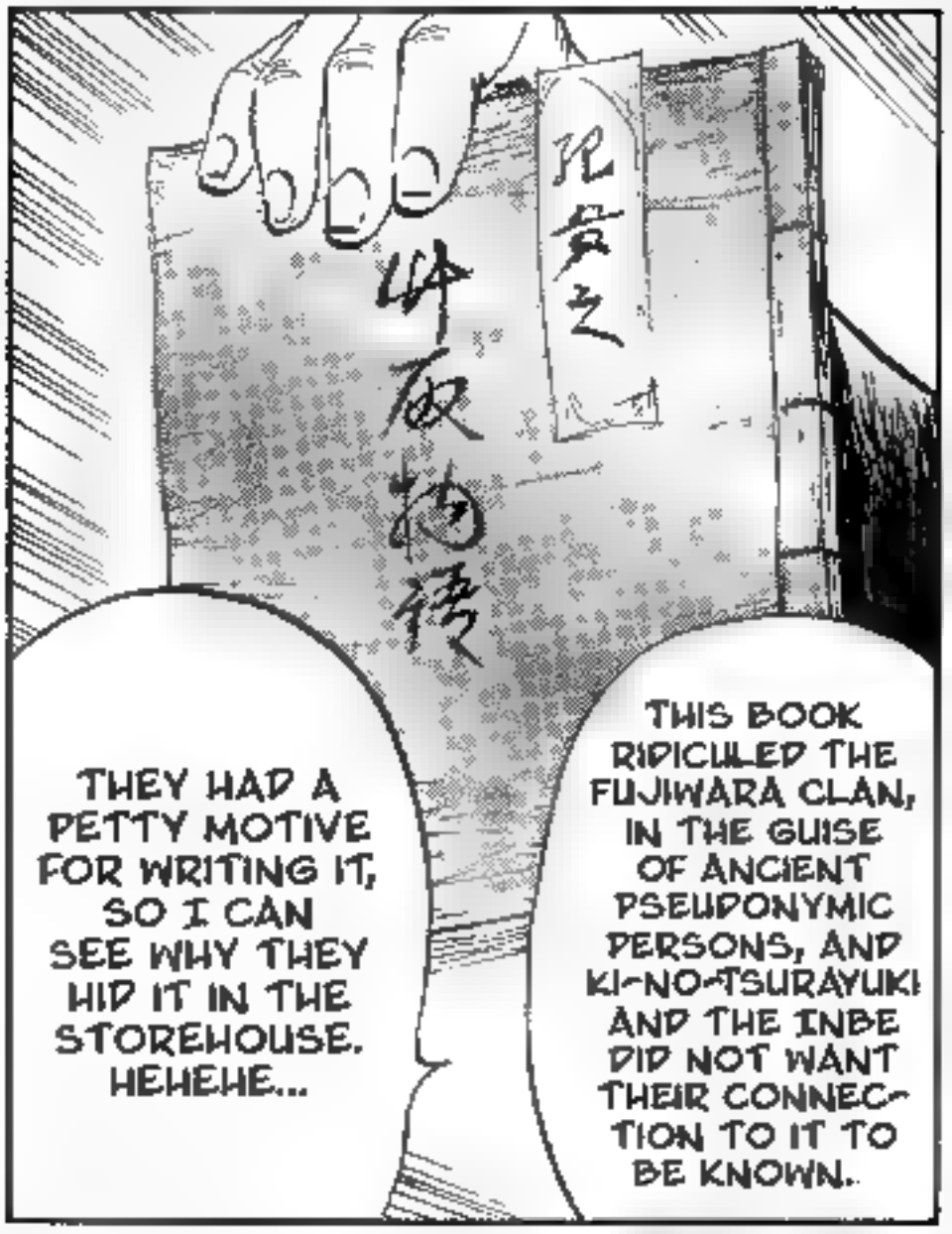
THE INBE CLAN'S POWER AS THE CLAN OF THE PRIEST-HOOD WAS TAKEN BY THE NAKATOMI CLAN OF THE FUJI-WARA...

WASN'T IT AROUND THE 10TH CENTURY THAT THE INBE AND KI-NO-TSURAYUKI WERE OUSTED IN A POWER STRUGGLE AND ON THE VERGE OF OSTRA-CISM?

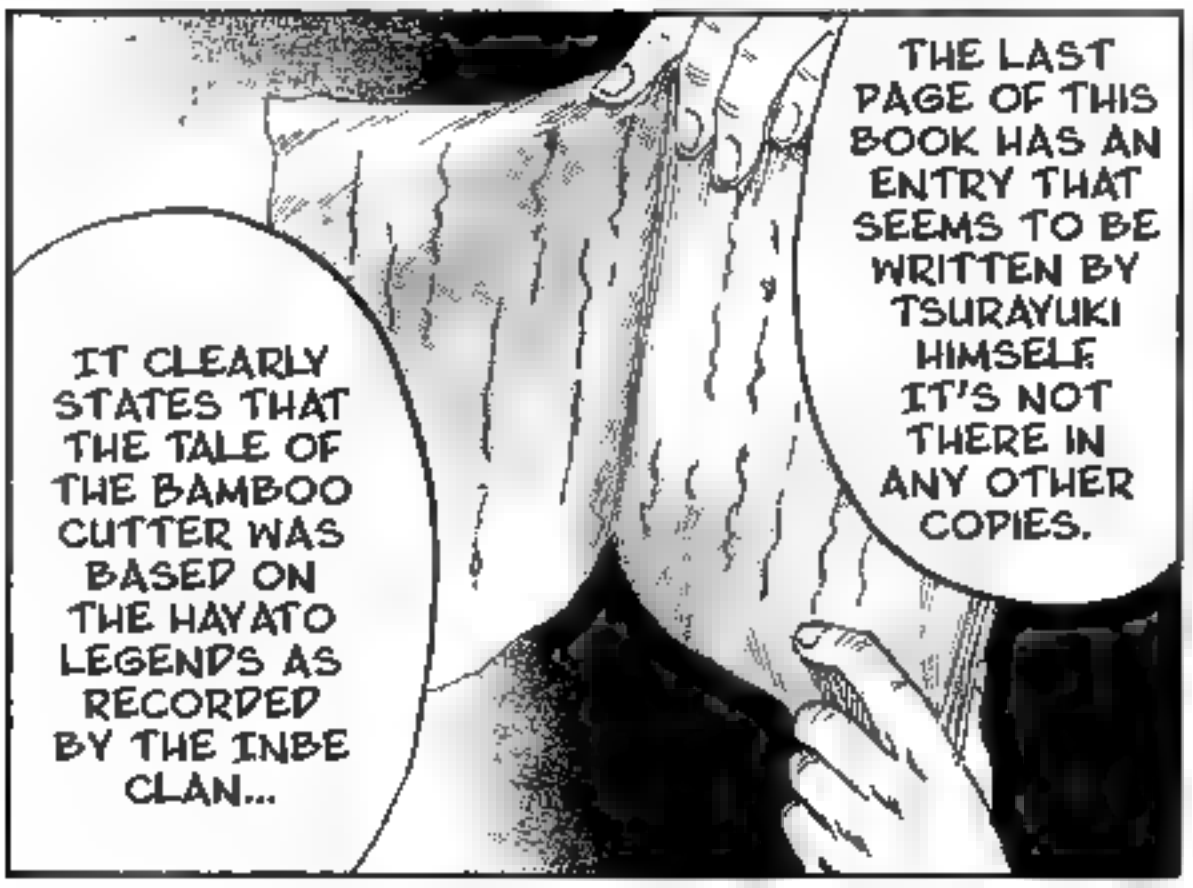
OUT OF THEIR PENT-UP RESENTMENT ...

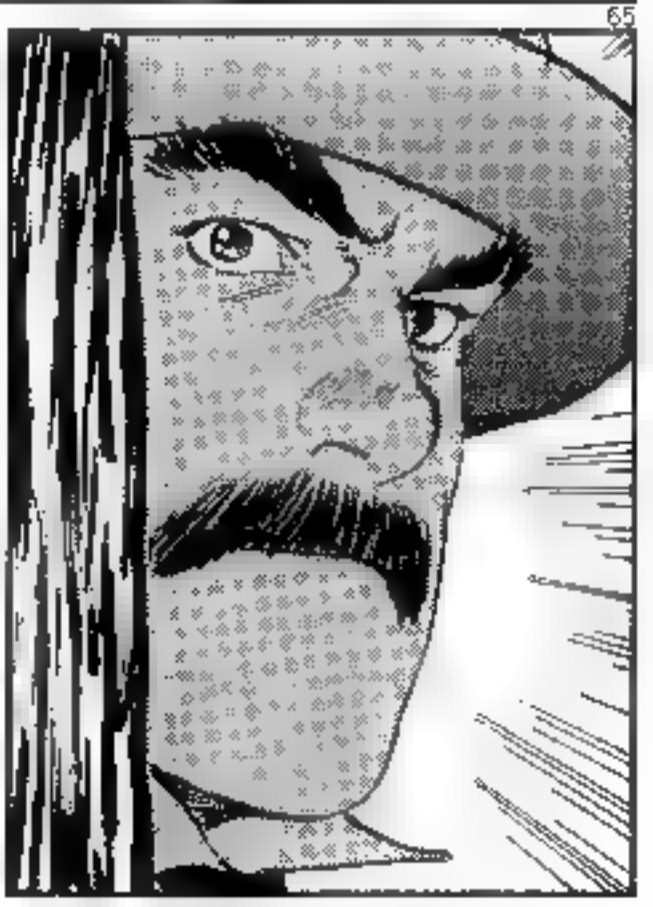
THE SANUKI INBE PROPOSED THAT KI-NO-TSURAYUKI COMPOSE A SA-TIRICAL TALE TO MOCK THE FUJIWARA CLAN AND THE OTHER NOBLES, WHO NOW POSSESSED VAST POWER, AND IN TURN TSURAYUKI WROTE THE "TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER".

64


此書物語
THIS BOOK RIDICULED THE FUJIWARA CLAN, IN THE GUISE OF ANCIENT PSEUDONYMIC PERSONS, AND KI-NO-TSURAYUKI AND THE INBE DID NOT WANT THEIR CONNEC-TION TO IT TO BE KNOWN.
THEY HAD A PETTY MOTIVE FOR WRITING IT, SO I CAN SEE WHY THEY HID IT IN THE STOREHOUSE. HEHEHE...

WHAT ARE YOUR TERMS !?
WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO FOR YOU TO RETURN IT!?


THE LAST PAGE OF THIS BOOK HAS AN ENTRY THAT SEEMS TO BE WRITTEN BY TSURAYUKI HIMSELF. IT'S NOT THERE IN ANY OTHER COPIES.
IT CLEARLY STATES THAT THE TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER WAS BASED ON THE HAYATO LEGENDS AS RECORDED BY THE INBE CLAN...



HE THEN BURIED THEM SOME-WHERE...

AND KI-NO-TSURAYUKI RETURNED TO KINAI FROM SHIKOKU, WITH THE "HAYATO TEXTS" IN HIS POSSESSION.

HE LASTLY INCLUDED FOUR POEMS... AND HERE IS A COPY OF THEM.

BURIED THEM!?

UNLIKE THE RIVER OF YOSHINO RIOTING ON ITS ROCKY COURSE, I SHALL UTTER NOT A SOUND, PERISH OF LOVE THOUGH I MAY.

NOW THAT THEY ARE GONE - THE FLOWERS HE SOUGHT TO DETAIN WITH HIS PLAINTIVE SONG - HE DOES NOT INTEND, IT SEEMS TO TROUBLE HIMSELF FURTHER.

IS NOT THE MOON THE SAME? THE SPRING THE SPRING OF OLD? ONLY THIS BODY OF MINE IS THE SAME BODY...

NOW, AS I PUT ON THE FEATHER ROBE BROUGHT FROM THE SKY, THIS EARTH IS LOST TO ME. MANY ARE THE TENDER THOUGHTS I HAVE THOUGHT BECAUSE OF YOU

IT MAY BE A CODE THAT REVEALS THEIR HIDING PLACE.
THE REST WERE KI-NO-TSURAYUKI'S SELECTIONS FROM THE "KOKIN WAKASHU". SOME OF THEM ARE TSURAYUKI'S, BUT THERE IS NO CONSISTENT THEME TO THEM.
THE FIRST STANZA IS NONE OTHER THAN PRINCESS KAGUYA'S FINAL POEM IN THE "TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER".
YOU CAN BREAK THE CODE, FIND THE TEXTS, AND BRING US...
THE REST IS FAR BEYOND US... SO WE'RE ASKING YOU, MS. IMIBE KANA.
67
OW...

AND HERE I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST GANG-ING UP TO THREATEN A YOUNG MAIDEN...

PRO-FES-SOR MUNA-KATA !?

WE SEEM TO RUN INTO EACH OTHER IN THE STRANGEST PLACES.

.....

68

THIS IS THE INBE CLAN'S PROBLEM. STAY OUT OF IT!

AHEM!

IF YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE, I WOULDN'T HESITATE TO COOPERATE WITH YOU.

I. I'M TAKI, MUNAKATA'S NIECE.

WE'LL MEET AGAIN,

IN ANOTHER STRANGE PLACE....

SIGN: WAKA-YAMA CITY

和歌山市

WAKAYAMA-SHI

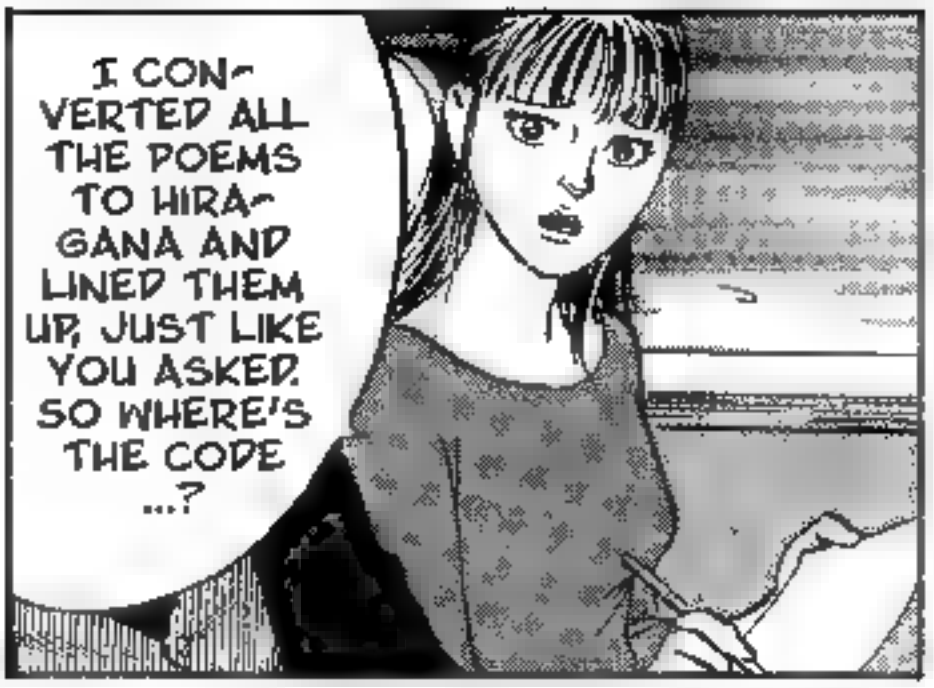
KI-NO-TSURA-YUKI...

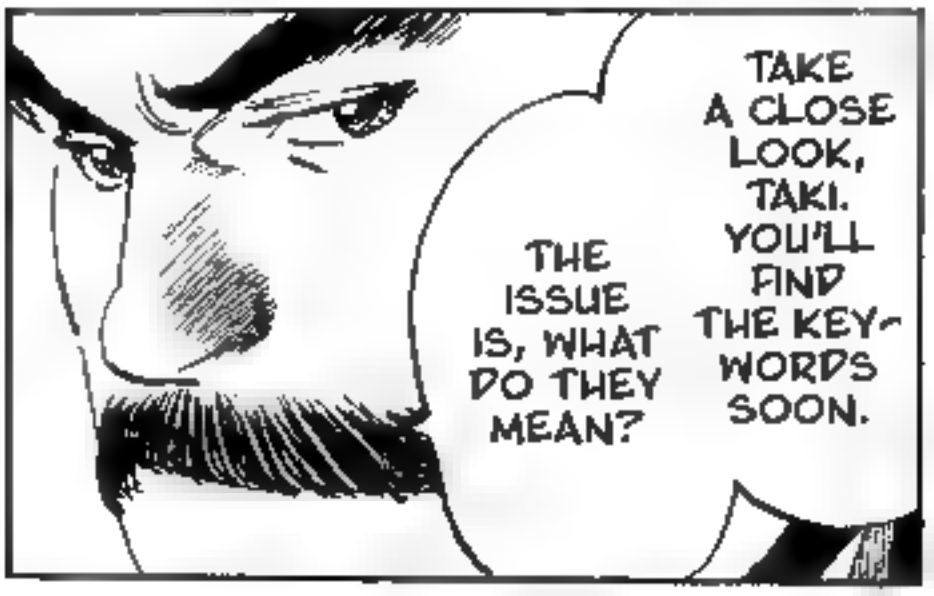
THIS WAS AN UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS. IT'S FAR MORE INTERESTING THAN IF WE'D JUST RETURNED STRAIGHT TO TOKYO.

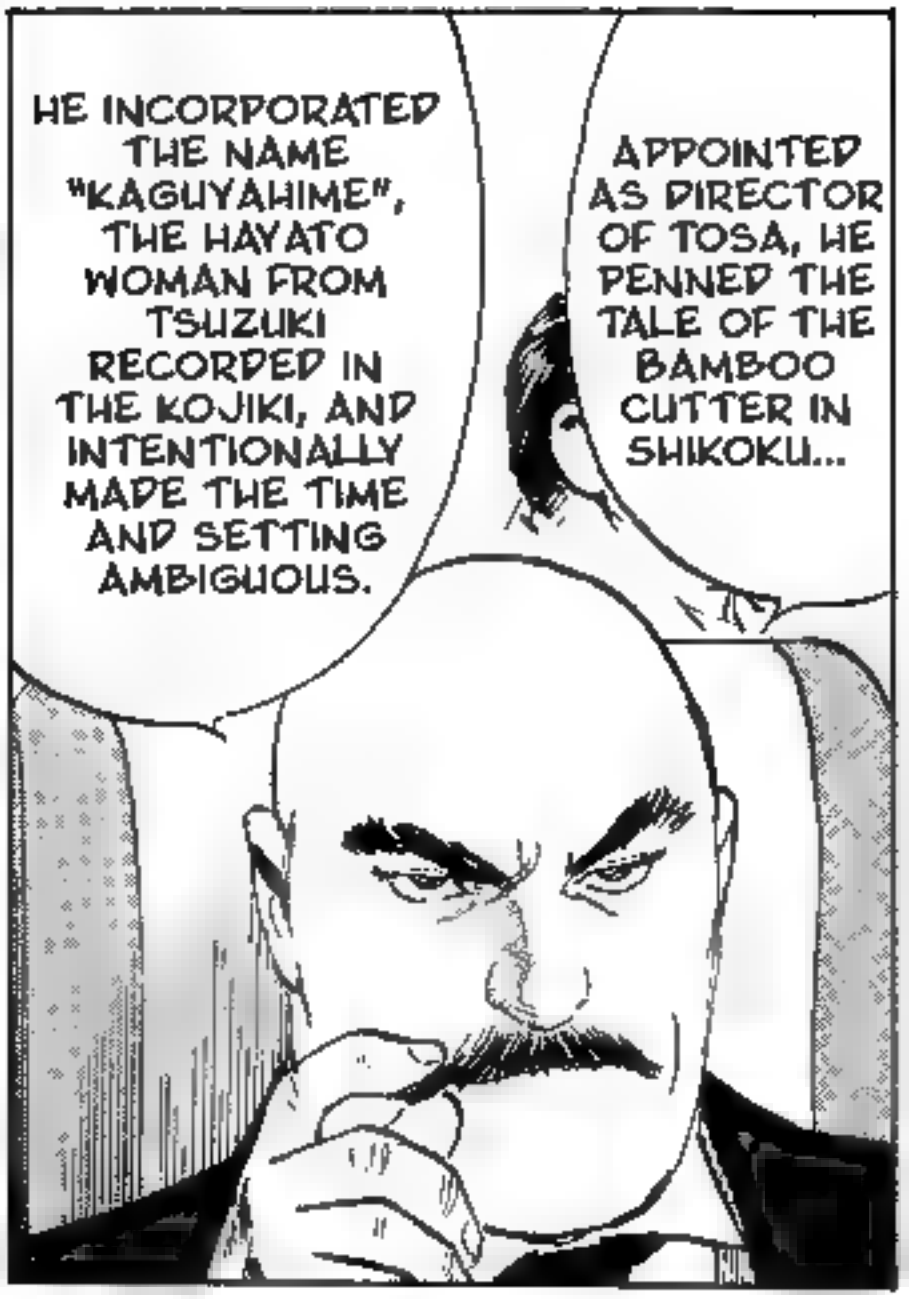
SIGN: KOKIN WAKA-SHU

今和歌集

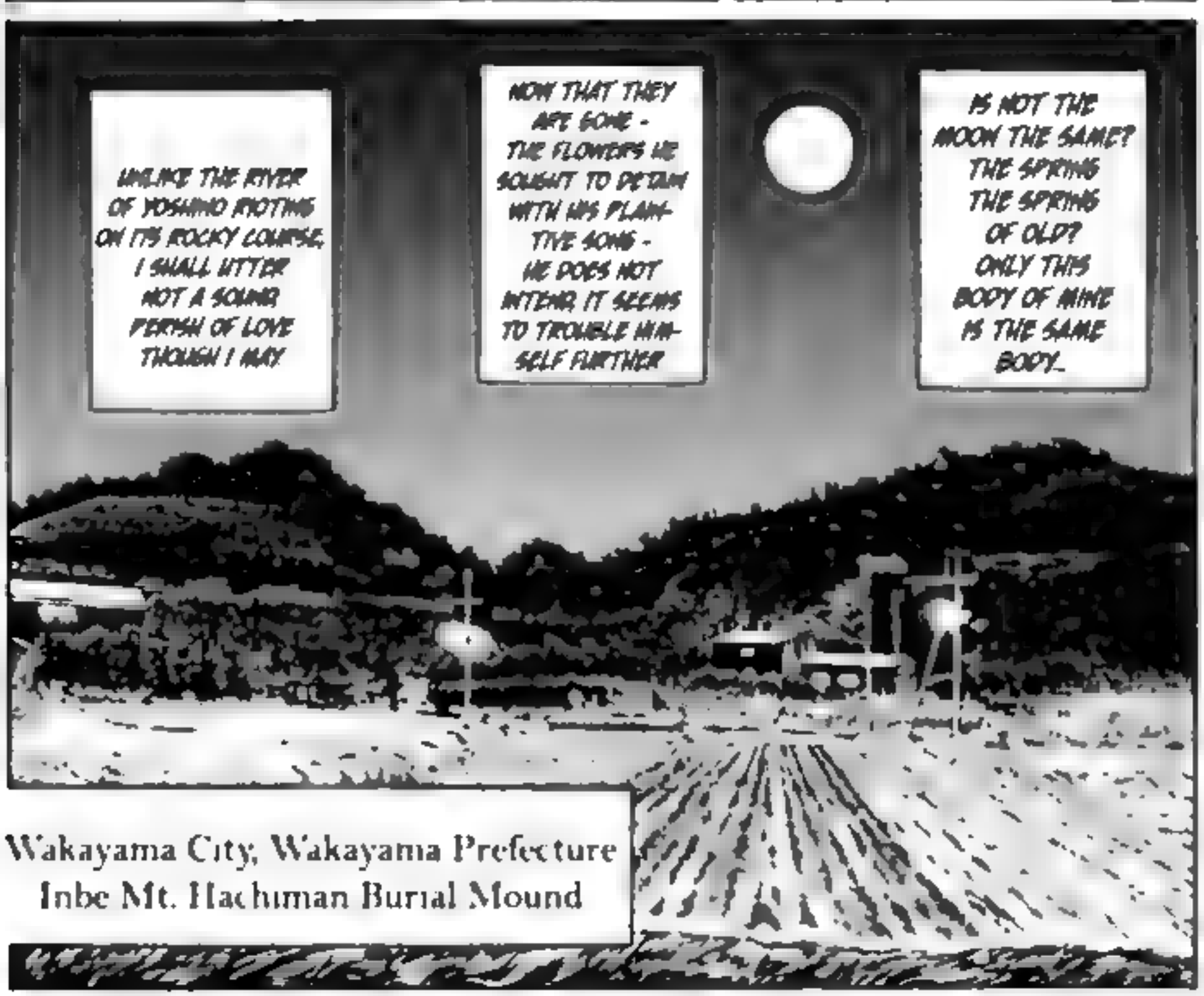
古今和歌集







いまはとて　あまのはごろも　きるおりぞ　きみをあわれと　おもいいでぬる
つきやあらぬ　はるやむかしの　はるならぬ　わがみひとつは　もとのみにして
なきとむる　はなしなければ　うぐいすも　はてはものうく　なりぬべらなり
よしのかわ　いわきりとおし　ゆくみずの　おとにはたてじ　こいはしぬとも



Wakayama City, Wakayama Prefecture
Inbe Mt. Hachiman Burial Mound

いま見上て　　春雨のはこりも　　さみだれと　おもいつゝ行ば

つま木あらぬ　はるやむ　　ひとつは　もとの　として

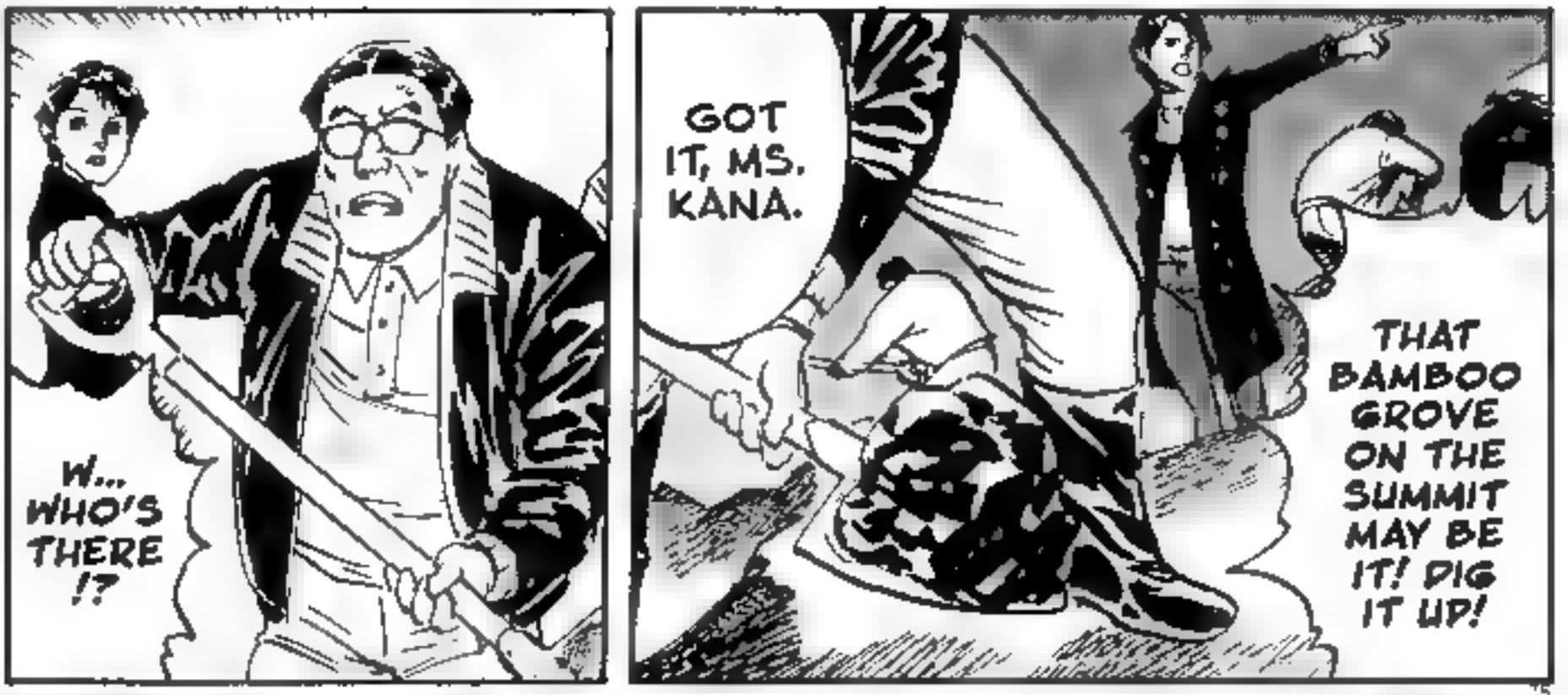
な！とむる　はなしなければ　　ものうく　なりぬ　らなり

ぁ！のあの　いわきりとおし　　よたてむ　こいはしぬとも

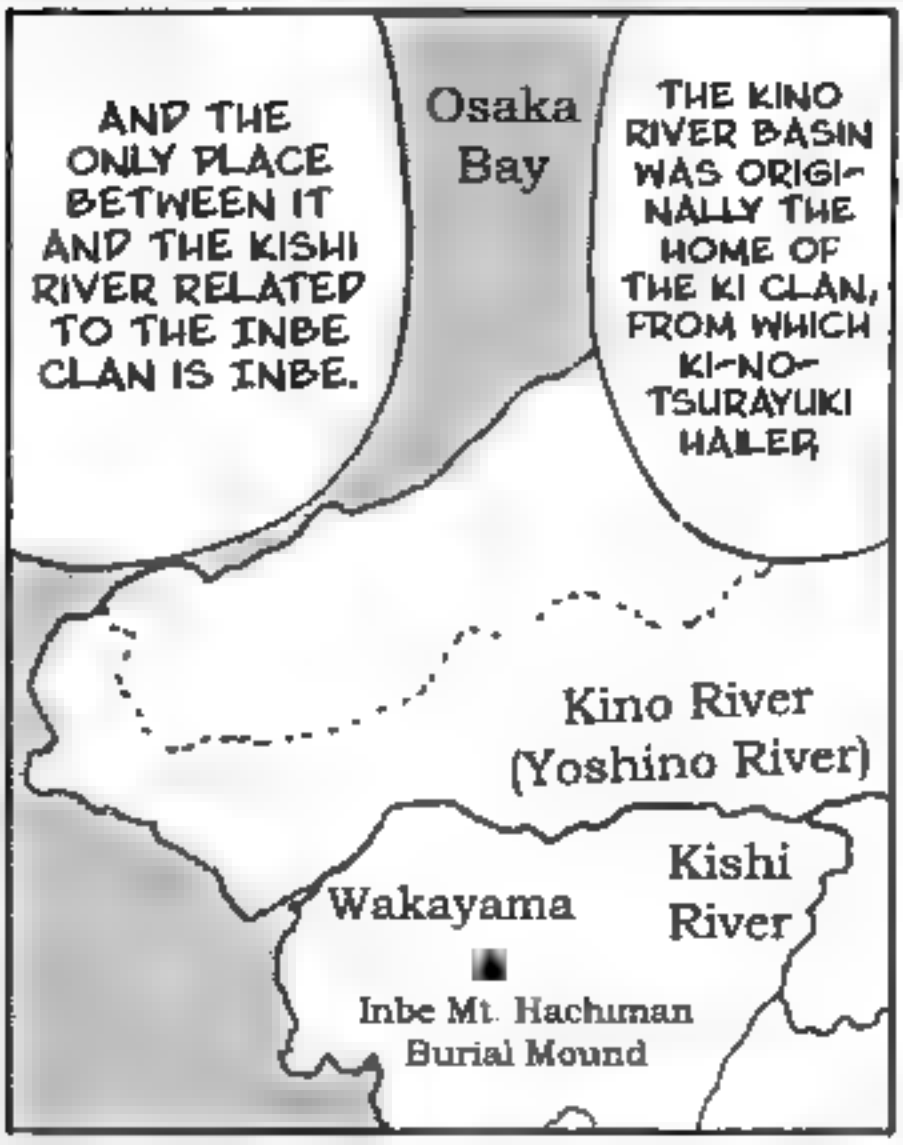
It is said to represent the

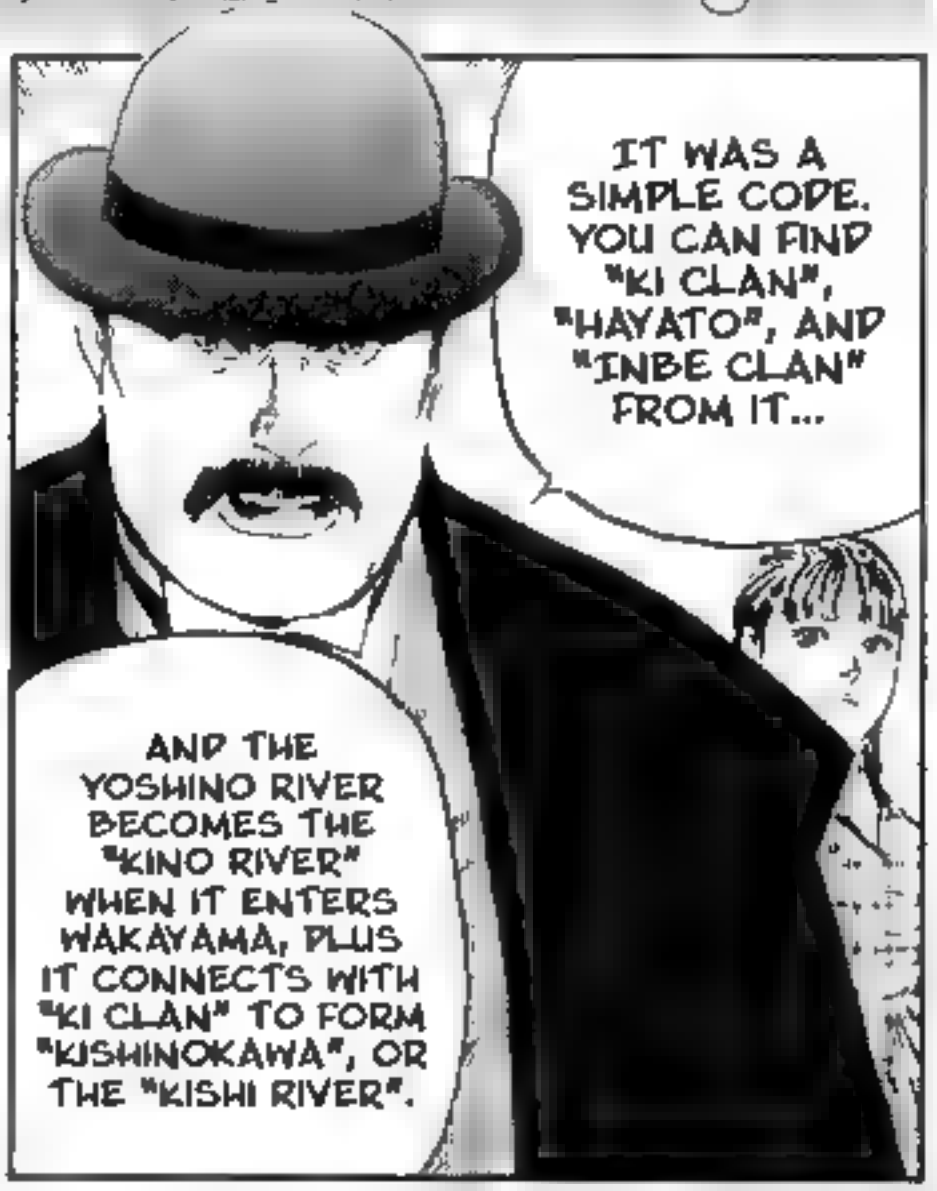
a trace that e Hayato had migrated here

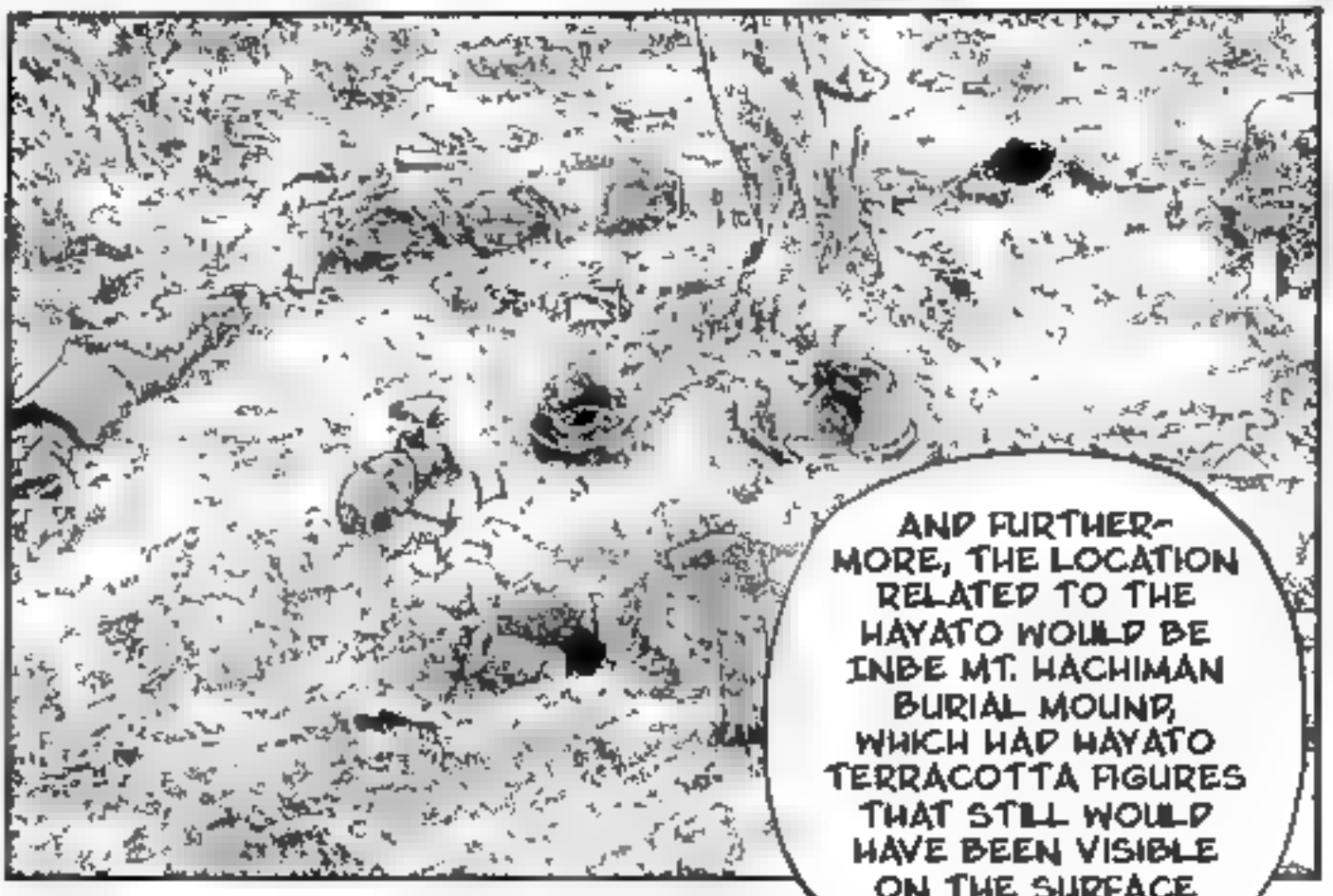
terracotta figures were discovered from the burial mound, the most famous of which is the "Strong Man


W... WHO'S THERE !?
GOT IT, MS. KANA.
THAT BAMBOO GROVE ON THE SUMMIT MAY BE IT! DIG IT UP!
THAT'S PROFESSOR MUNAKATA. HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE...
SO, YOU CAME AFTER ALL. I SEE WE BROKE THE CODE THE SAME WAY.

いまはとて　あまのはごろも　きるおりぞ　きみをあわれと　おもいいでぬる
つきやあらぬ　はるやむかしの　はるならぬ　わがみひとつは　もとのみにして
なきとむる　はなしなければ　うぐいすも　はてはものうく　なりぬべらなり
（よしのかわ）　いわきりとおし　ゆくみずの　おとにはたてじ　こいはしぬとも







HACHIMAN WAS A GOD WHOSE CLAIM TO FAME WAS QUELLING THE HAYATO'S REBELLION...

HE WAS ALSO THE GOD THAT COULD SILENCE THE HAYATO'S GRUDGE!

BASED ON THE COMMON NAME OF MT. HACHIMAN, THERE'S A HIGH PROBABILITY THAT IT WAS HOME TO A SMALL SHRINE WORSHIPPING HACHIMAN SINCE THE KOFUN PERIOR

GOOD THINK-ING.

YOU COULD SAY THAT THIS WOULD BE A LOCATION THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN EQUALLY SIMPLE TO DIG UP FOR ANYONE THAT BROKE THE CODE, WHETHER INBE, KI, OR HAYATO.

THAT LOOKS LIKE THE SHRINE'S FOUNDA-TION!

LOOK UNDER-NEATH IT!

IS THAT IT?

THE HAYATO LEGEND THAT-KI-NO-TSU-RAYUKI BURIED ...?

A BAM-BOO WRIT-ING STRIP ...!!

IT'S SO FRAGILE IT COULD CRUMBLE AT ANY MOMENT, PLUS IT'S IN ANCIENT INBE SCRIPT. NO OUTSIDER COULD READ IT EASILY.

WAIT ...

.....

SO... WHY DON'T YOU READ IT HERE, SO WE CAN CONFIRM ITS CONTENTS?

THE TALES TOLD BY THE HAYATO... HERE RECORDED BY INBE-NO-AKITA...

Shima was an artisan, skilled even among the Hayato in making bamboo tools such as fishing poles and creels

One day, he was bored from bamboo-working, and so he borrowed his brother's fishing pole without permission, until a fish made off with his fishhook

Though he apologized, his brother scolded him harshly, and insisted that he dive into the ocean to recover the fishhook.

Shima's parents took pity on him, and placed him into a basket woven from bamboo, and submerged him in the ocean.

After he had traversed a long pipe, he found himself at the palace of Princess Tsuzuki.

They must be living in grief with his mean spirited brother . He was so concerned for them, that he could stay no longer

But Shima remembered his aging parents

He wedded Princess Tsuzuki, and three years passed.

"Those who come to Tokoyo are not permitted to return. Should the balance of time be disrupted, it will only lead to sorrow for both you and her "

"Ride this tide out, and you can reach the sea of your home. ."

"But you must not open it until we meet again"

"Take this box."

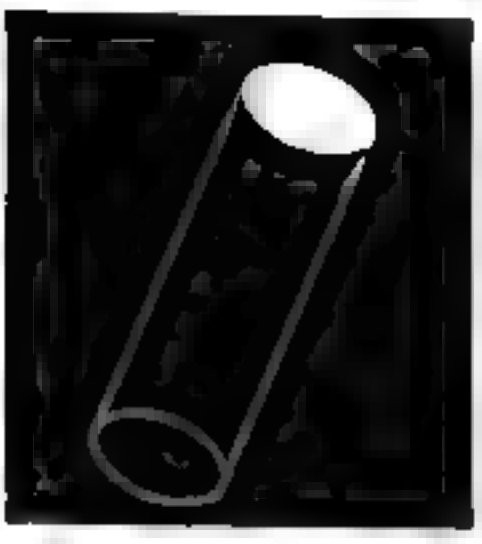
84

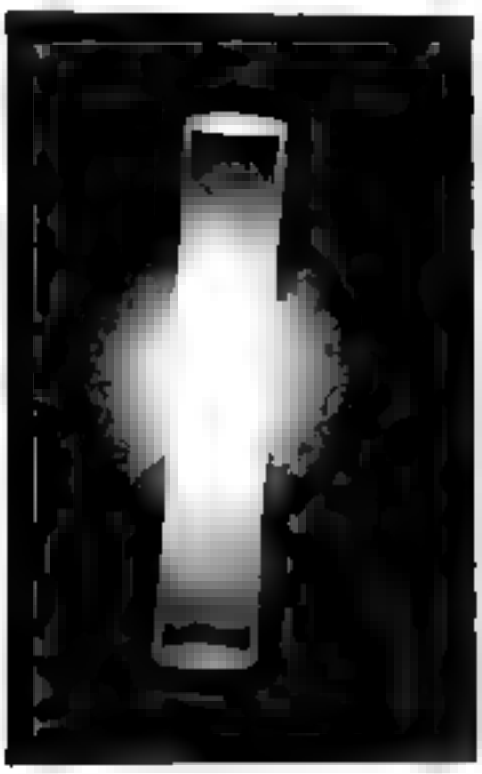
"I promise I will come back. We will meet again."

But back in his hometown, not only were his parents gone, but everyone familiar to him

What he thought were three years were actually centuries

86





Time passed in emptiness, and Shima was no longer young.

The girl grew day by day, and he gave her the name Nayotake. The lonely Shima's life was suddenly filled with light

Many of the young Hayato came to court her, and Shima encouraged her to wed, but Nayotake turned down all their advances and would not leave Shima.

Three years passed

"The day has come for me to return to my home land."

And on the fifteenth night of the eighth month, Nayotake suddenly said,

"Please take out the box I gave you..."

"This is your punish ment "

"You have disrupted the balance between Tokoyo and this world. The balance of 'time' "

ガッ

"That is the elixir of immortality..

"Live on . So long as you live, the day will come when we meet again . "

"Don't go!"

"Princess Tsuzuki . !!"

"Don't go!"

"I have been happy these past three years

"My husband . "

"We will meet again .. "

"Live on! And one day ..

THE END

AHH...

!

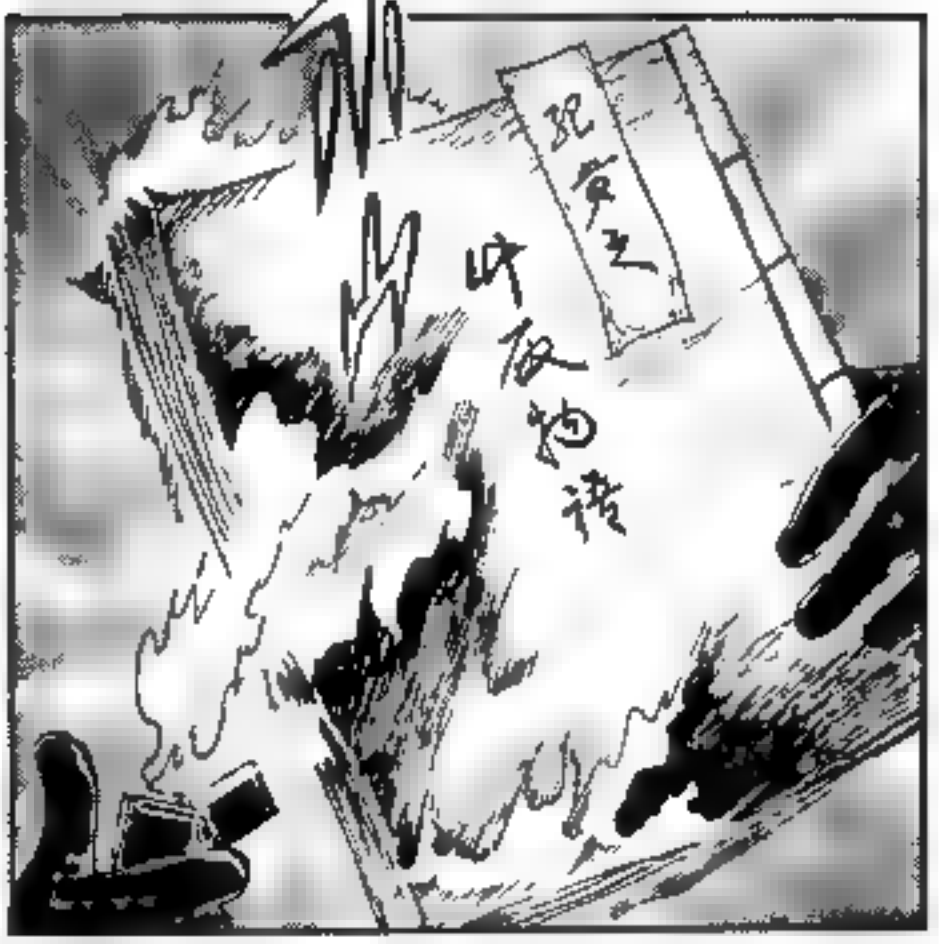
!!

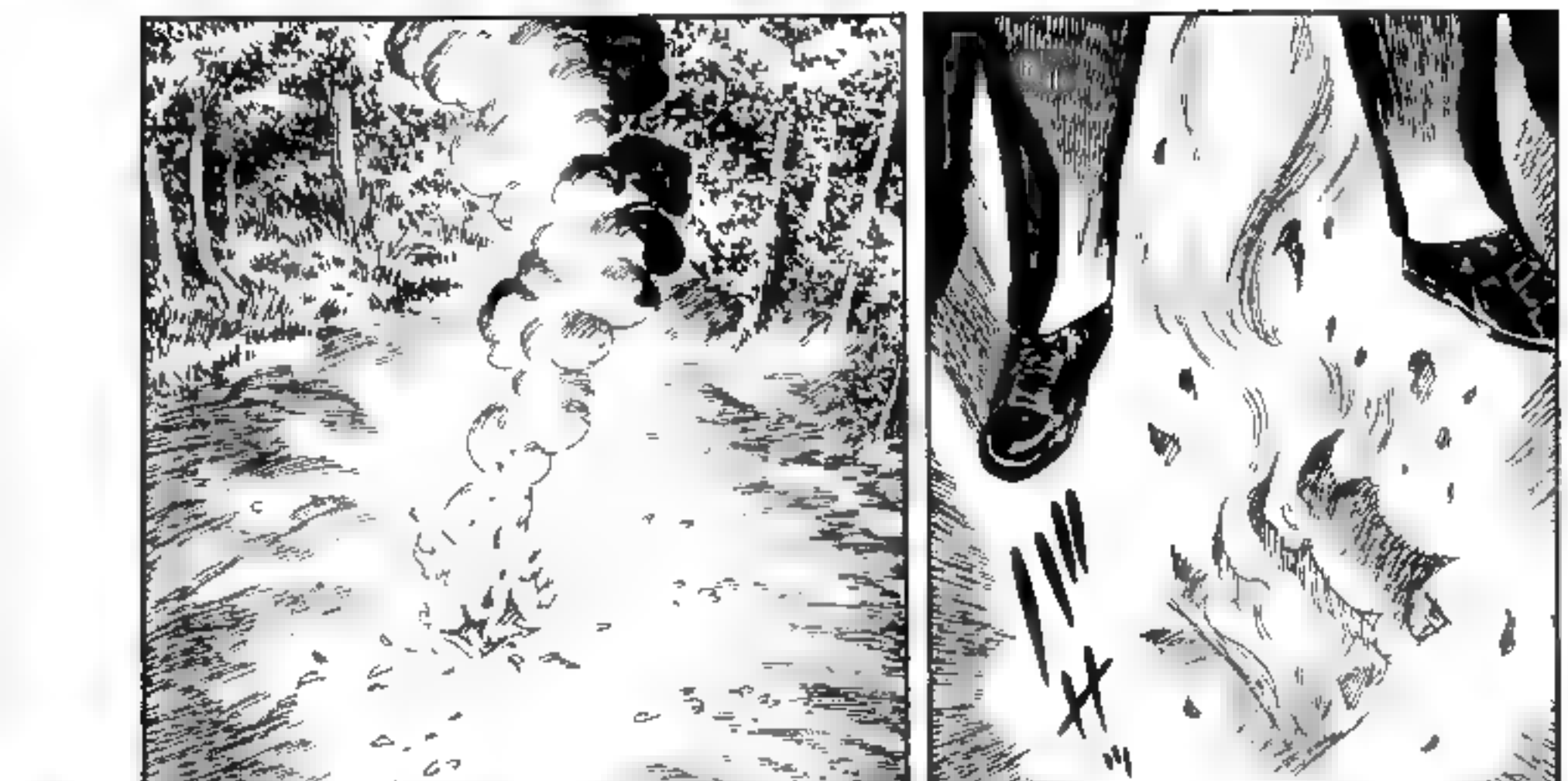
!!

AND THE FATE OF THE HAYATO WITH IT...

SO THE TALES OF URASHIMA AND PRINCESS KAGUYA WERE ORIGINALLY THE SAME STORY THAT WAS SPLIT INTO TWO!

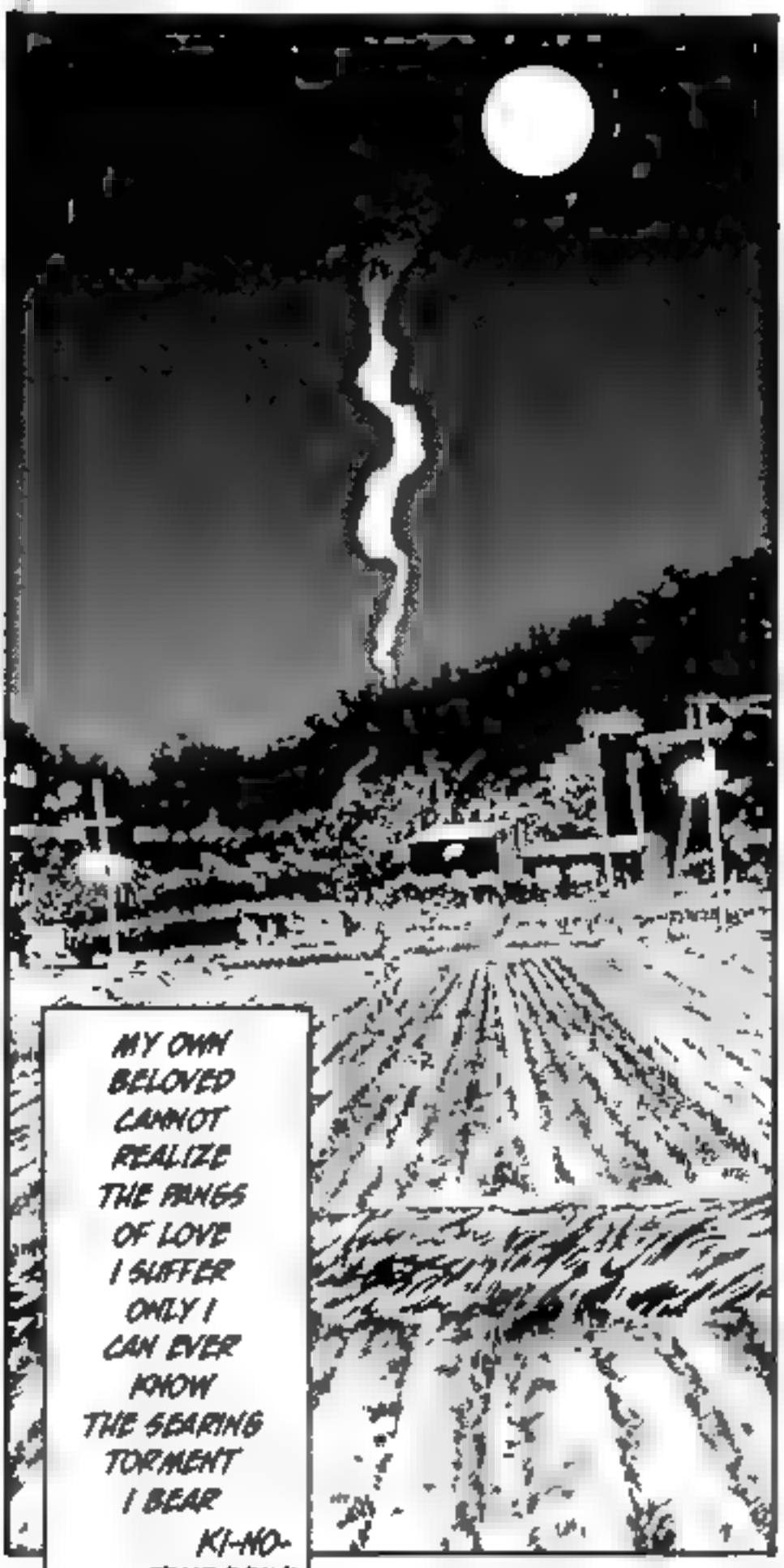
!!
W... WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?

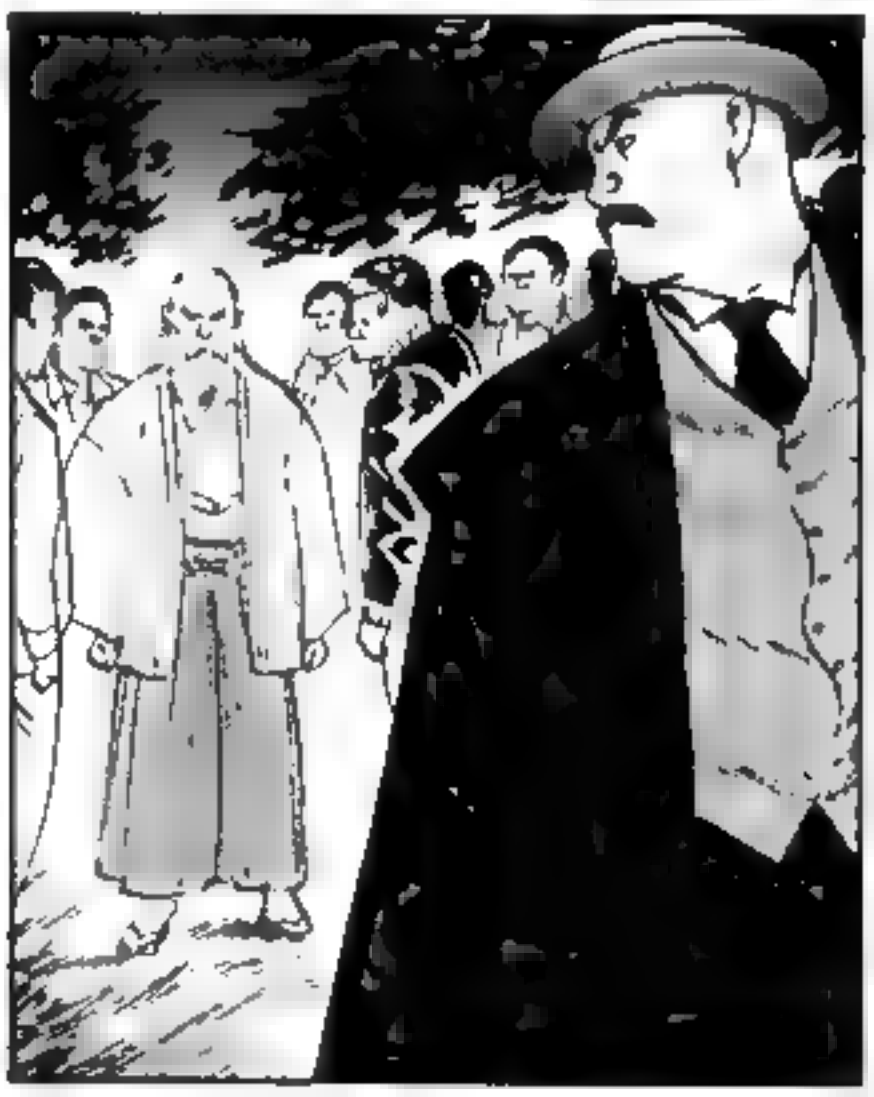




THIS IS FOR THE BEST ...

YES.


MY OWN BELOVED CANNOT REALIZE THE PANGS OF LOVE I SUFFER ONLY I CAN EVER KNOW THE SEARING TORMENT I BEAR
KI-NO-TSURAYUKI



KI-NO-TSURAYUKI HIMSELF MUST HAVE WRITTEN THE "TALE OF THE BAMBOO CUTTER" AS A STORY HE WANTED TO READ TO HIS LOST DAUGHTER..

Tunnel Tomb Excavation Site,
Kyotanabe City, Kyoto Prefecture

OH...

APOLO-
GIZE FOR
DISTURB-
ING YOU
AGAIN,
MISS
YAE.

MS. IMIBE
HERE WOULD
LIKE TO
SEE THE
BODY OF THE
WOMAN YOU
SHOWED ME
THE OTHER
DAY...

OH, SHE WAS JUST THERE.

WHERE DID SHE GO?

THE OAKE RECORDS OF PROPHECY

CHAPTER 17

PRESENTED BY

HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY

SYSTEMATICCHAOS

EDITING BY

HIGHTIDE AND KAZUHIKO

PROOFREADING BY

DESTORYERRING

CHAPTER 18: MYTH OF THE HEAVENS

Osaka
Sumiyoshi
Grand Shrine

YES-SIR!

"SUMIYOS-SAN" IS THE GOD OF SAILING. BE SURE TO PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO HIM BEFORE YOU SET SAIL!

AS STUDENTS OF THE EAST ASIA UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE, I THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR A MORE DE-TAILED LECTURE ON THE ORIGINS OF SUMIYOSHI GRAND SHRINE.

PRO-FES-SOR MUNA-KATA...

HOLD ON.

THE PRINCIPAL GODS OF SUMIYOSHI GRAND SHRINE ARE "SOKOTSUTSUNO'O", "NAKATSUTSUNO'O", AND "UWATSUTSUNO'O", EACH ENSHRINED IN ONE OF THE THREE SANCTUARIES.

Y...YES SIR...

URK ...

IT'S PERHAPS FOR THAT REASON THAT THE THREE SANC-TUARIES, ALL ALONG A LINE FACING WEST, ARE REMINIS-CENT OF HER FLEET'S VOYAGE.

ACCORDING TO JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY, THIS SHRINE WAS FOUNDED AFTER THE THREE GODS OF SUMIYOSHI GUIDED EMPRESS JINGU WHEN SHE SET SAIL TO BAEKJE.

IT USED TO COMMAND A VIEW OF THE "SUMI INLET", AND MUST HAVE PRESIDED OVER MANY SHIPS COMING AND GOING.

BY THE WAY, ALL THREE GODS OF SUMIYOSHI HAVE THE SUFFIX "TSUTSUNO'O". WHO HERE KNOWS WHAT "TSUTSU" MEANS?

4

TSUTSU ...?

*SEE THE SPECIAL VOLUME "THE CASE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MUNAKATA, COLLECTION 3", CHAPTER 1, "CAVE OF MAN"

WOW!

LET'S EAT UP, FIRST. AMINO THE IT BILLIONAIRE'S COVERING IT ALL, SO WE CAN EAT ALL THE STEAK WE WANT!

S... SORRY, BUT WE'VE STILL GOT TO GET READY!

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE "CAVE OF MAN"*, AMINO.

BUT THAT'S ANOTHER REASON I'M GLAD I COULD ASK YOU TO JOIN US, PROFESSOR.

I GUESS OUR BOATING CLUB MEMBERS ALL HAVE MUSCLES FOR BRAINS...

I'VE ACTUALLY INVITED MS. IMIBE KANA AS WELL, TO WRITE A REPORT ON THIS "WATATSUMI PROJECT"...

Port of Osaka

I BELIEVE MY MONEY SHOULD BE USED FOR THINGS THAT ARE ACADEMICALLY MEANINGFUL!

MY EXPERIENCE WANDERING THE UNDERGROUND CAVES WITH PROFESSOR MUNAKATA CHANGED ME...

WE'RE GOING TO SAIL FROM OSAKA TO KOREA ON THIS RESTORED ANCIENT SHIP, THE "WATATSUMI".

I'VE GIVEN UP ON MAKING MONEY FROM PORTAL SITES, STOCKS, AND CORPORATE BUYOUTS!

COME TO THINK OF IT, WASN'T IT YOU, ME, AMINO, AND AN ANCIENT BOAT ON THAT ADVENTURE AS WELL...?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING. YOU TWO WILL BE RIDING THIS ESCORT SHIP THE WHOLE TIME.

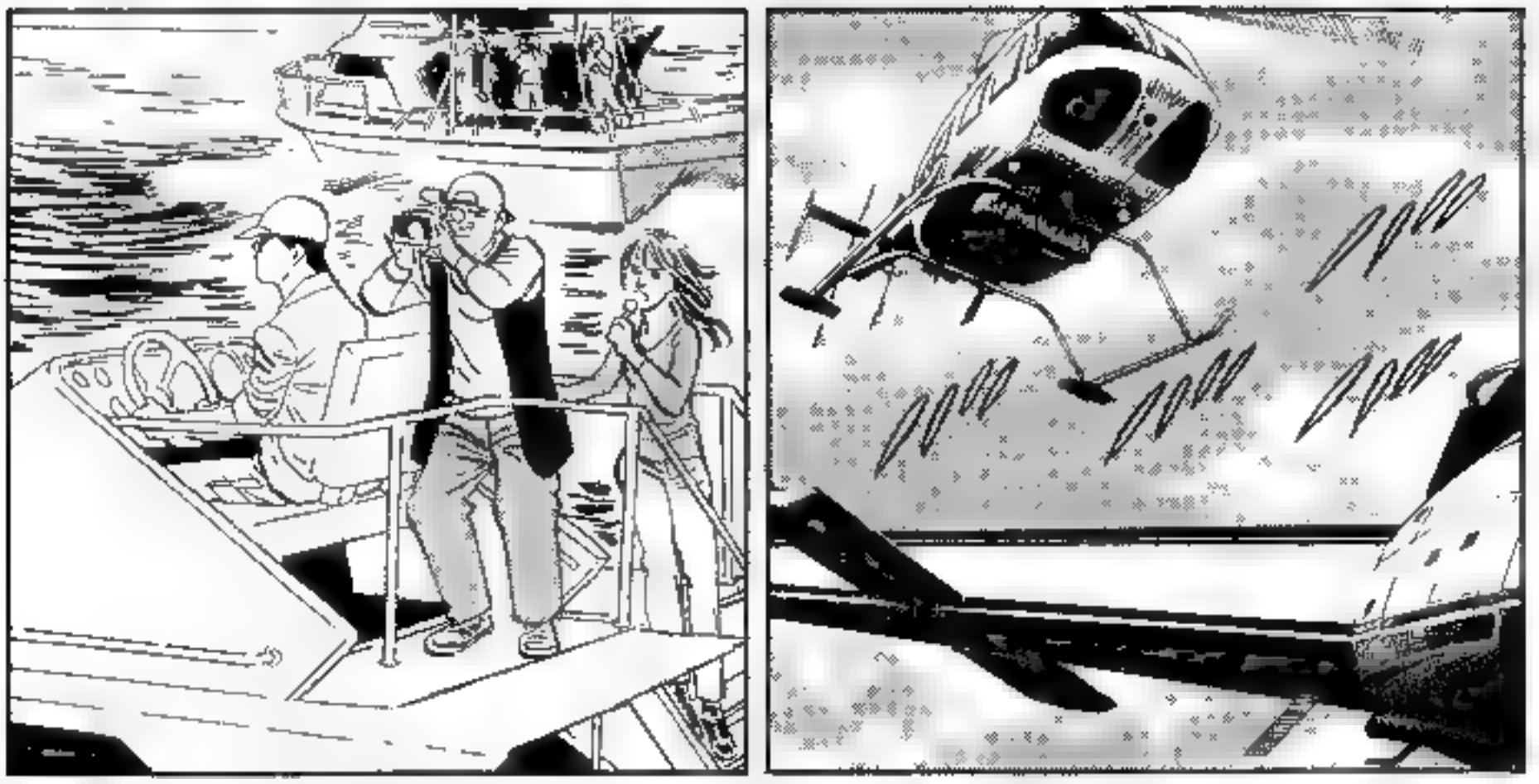
OH, SO EVEN PROFESSOR MUNAKATA PAYS ATTENTION TO BAD PREMONITIONS. HEHEHE.

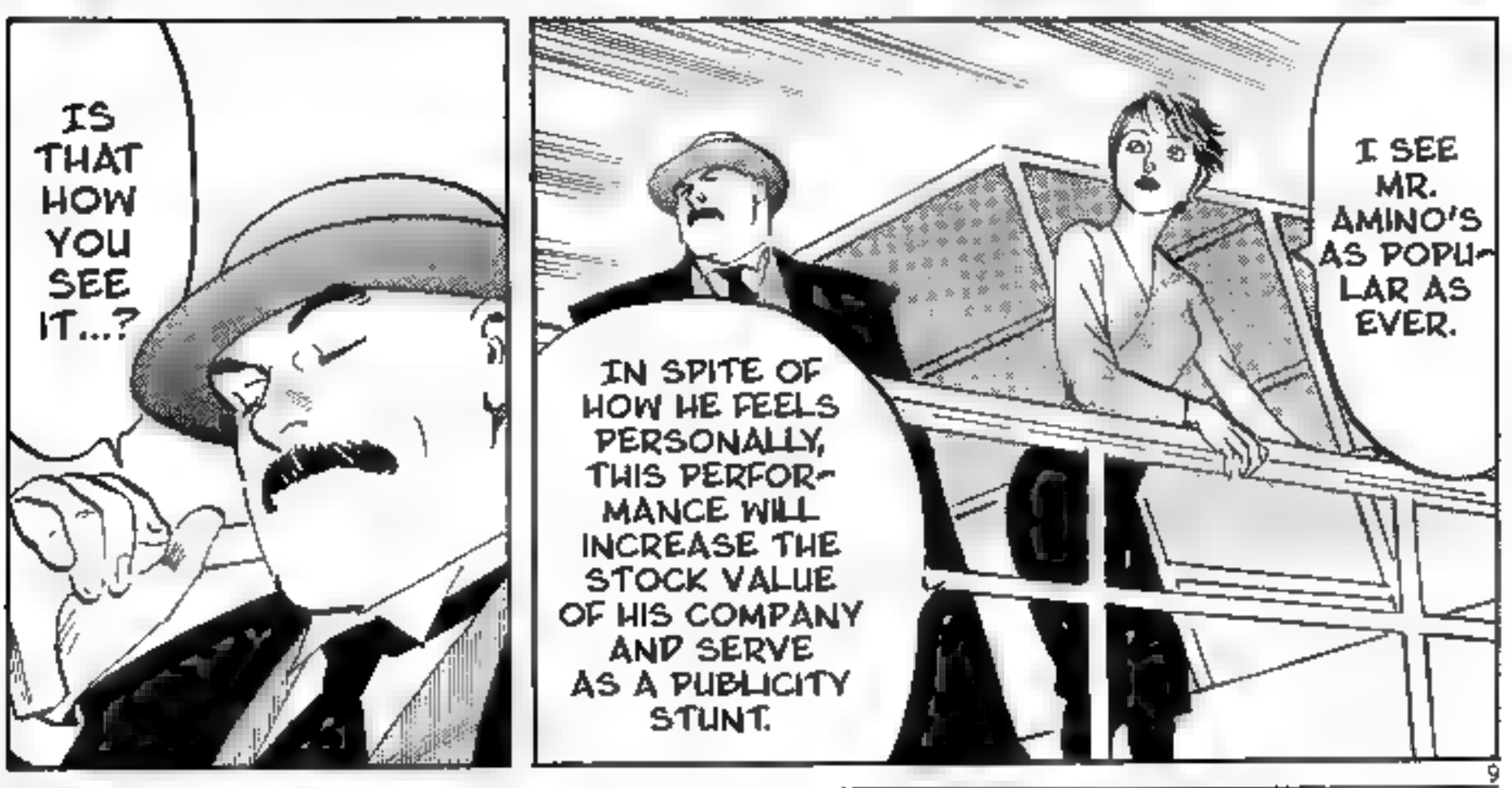
EVEN IF THE "WATATSUMI" WERE IN DANGER, WE CAN TOW IT OR EVEN TRANSFER THE CREW HERE. IT'S ENTIRELY SAFE.

YEEE AAAA HHHH HHHH HH!

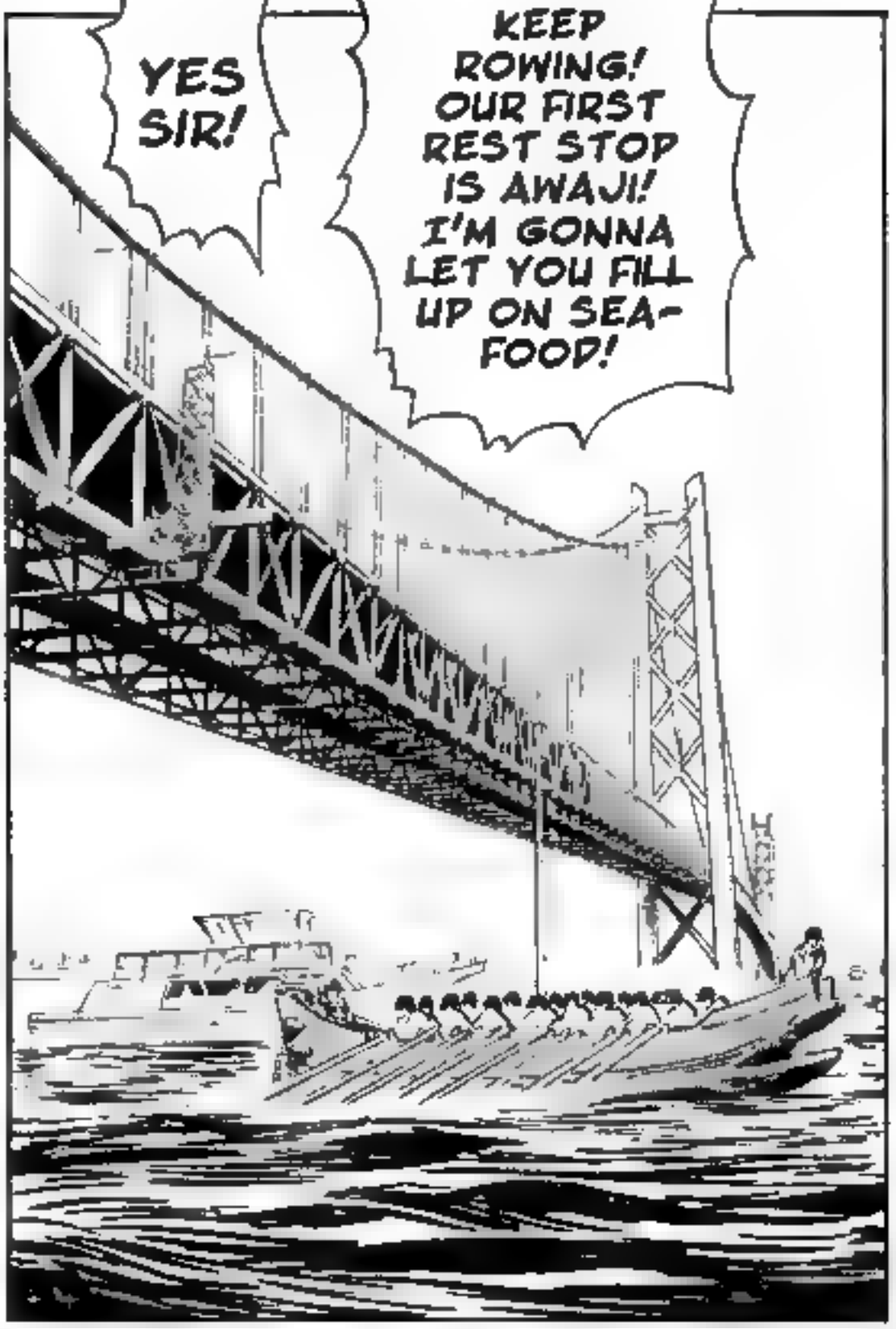
WATA-TSUMI, SET SAIL!!

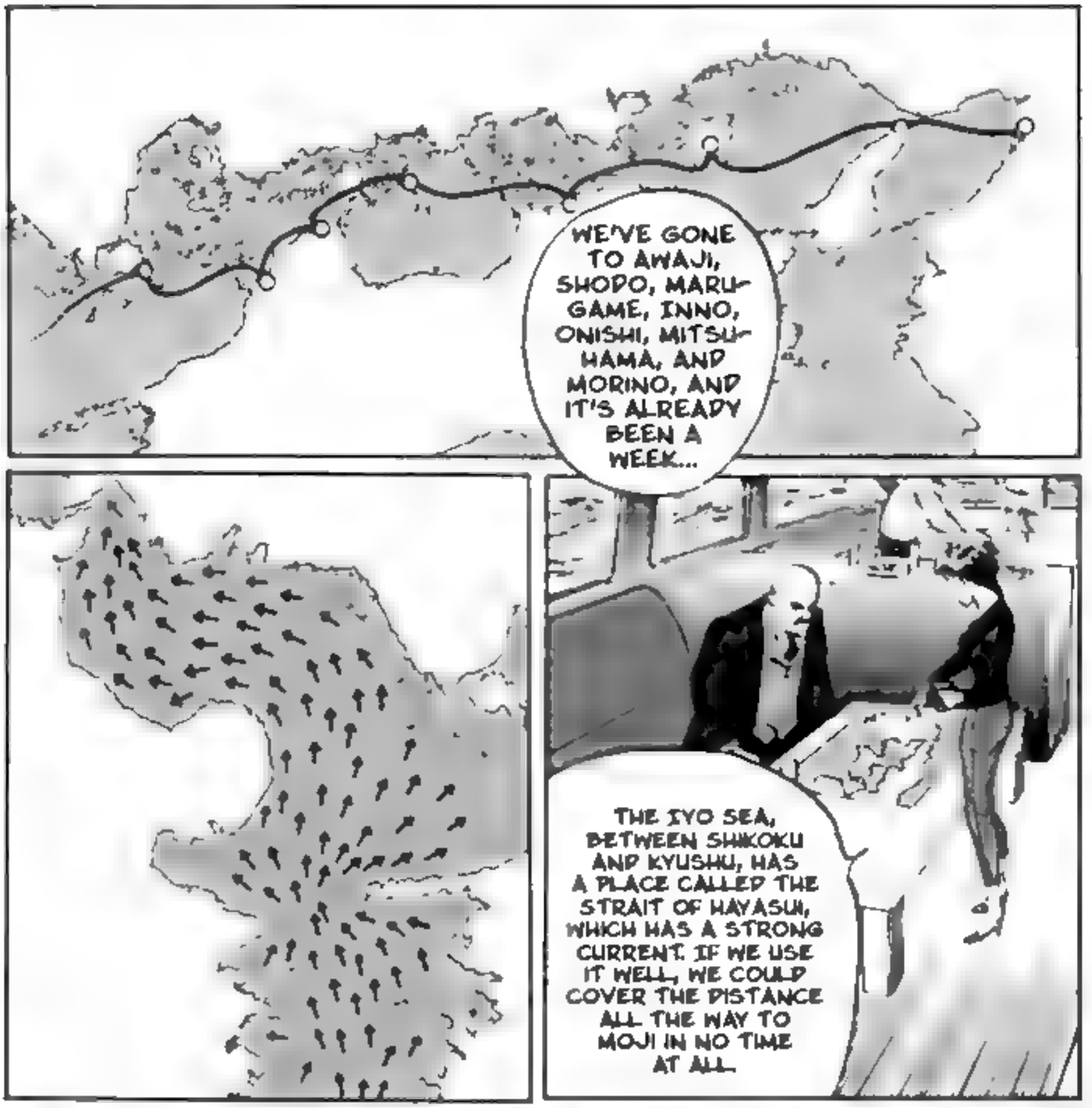
WATATSUMI

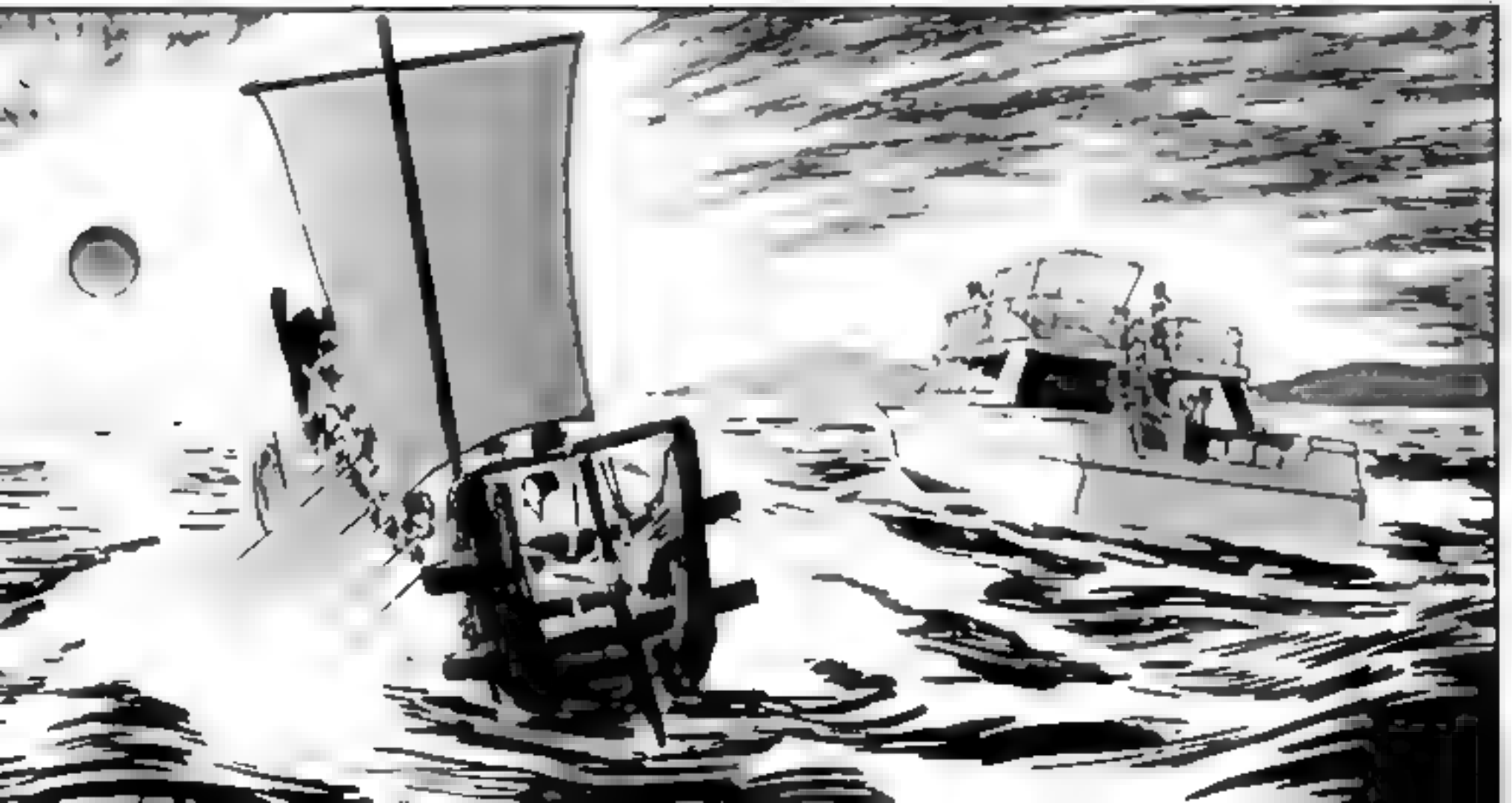



IS THAT HOW YOU SEE IT...?
IN SPITE OF HOW HE FEELS PERSONALLY, THIS PERFOR-MANCE WILL INCREASE THE STOCK VALUE OF HIS COMPANY AND SERVE AS A PUBLICITY STUNT.
I SEE MR. AMINO'S AS POPU-LAR AS EVER.

EVEN I'M HERE FOR THE EXORBITANT CONTRACT FEE...
EVERYONE FLOCKS TO THE MONEY. SAME GOES FOR THE STUDENTS ROWING THE BOAT...


YES SIR!
KEEP ROWING! OUR FIRST REST STOP IS AWAJI! I'M GONNA LET YOU FILL UP ON SEA-FOOD!


WE'VE GONE TO AWAJI, SHODO, MARU-GAME, INNO, ONISHI, MITSU-HAMA, AND MORINO, AND IT'S ALREADY BEEN A WEEK...
THE IYO SEA, BETWEEN SHIKOKU AND KYUSHU, HAS A PLACE CALLED THE STRAIT OF HAYASUI, WHICH HAS A STRONG CURRENT. IF WE USE IT WELL, WE COULD COVER THE DISTANCE ALL THE WAY TO MOJI IN NO TIME AT ALL.



GOT IT. IT'S NIGHT NOW, BUT WE'LL SEE HOW FAR THAT CURRENT CAN TAKE US.

ROGER THAT. I THINK OUR ROWERS CAN KEEP GOING.

THAT'LL BE FOR THE BEST, SIR. IT'S LOOKING LIKE THE WEATHER WILL GET WORSE TOMORROW.

Day 8 of voyage
Iyo Sea

IT'S PRETTY BORING DURING THE DAY, BUT IT'S NOT BAD TO LOOK UP AT THE STARS THAT SEEM TO RAIN DOWN EVERY NIGHT...

OH, I JUST FELT A BIT CREEPED-OUT BY HEARING THAT COME FROM YOU... WONDER IF IT'LL RAIN SPEARS IN-STEAD

...WHAT ?

.....

13

WELL, EXCUSE ME...

WAA AAA AAA AAA AUG H!!

H...HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS? IS EVERY-ONE SAFE!?

HEY, IMIBE!

I KNOW! YOU CAN'T SWIM!

PRO-FESSOR MUNA-KATA! S...SOME HOW, WE'RE ALL HERE!

NO SIGN OF THEM! THEY MAY HAVE GONE DOWN WITH THE SHIP...

HOW ABOUT THE STAFF FROM THE CRUIS-ER?

S...SO IT'S JUST US AMATEURS AND THIS ANCIENT BOAT IN THE OPEN OCEAN...!?

ONE MORE TIME! PUT YOUR WEIGHT ON IT AND FLIP IT OVER!

HEAVE !!

THAT WAS PROBABLY A METEOR OR A FRAGMENT OF AN ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE, OR SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES.

ME-TEOR ...?

WHAT JUST HAPPENED? IT LOOKED LIKE RED LIGHT FALL-ING FROM THE SKY...

IT'S A VERY LOW PROBABIL-ITY, BUT IT HAPPENED ANYWAY.

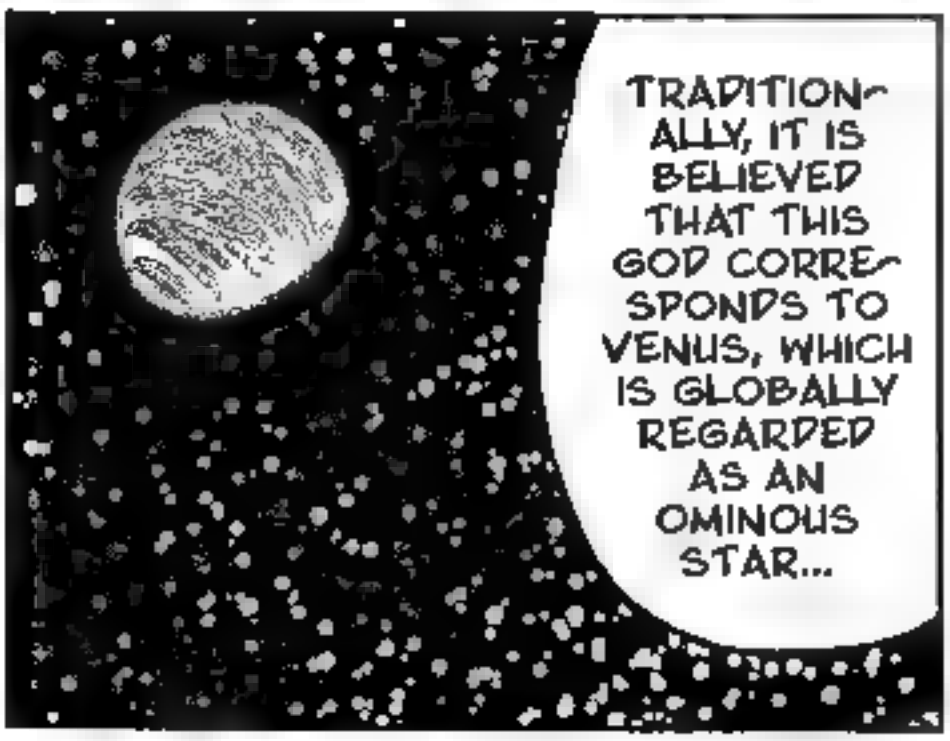
THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES! HOW COULD A METEOR STRIKE THE SHIP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN ...?

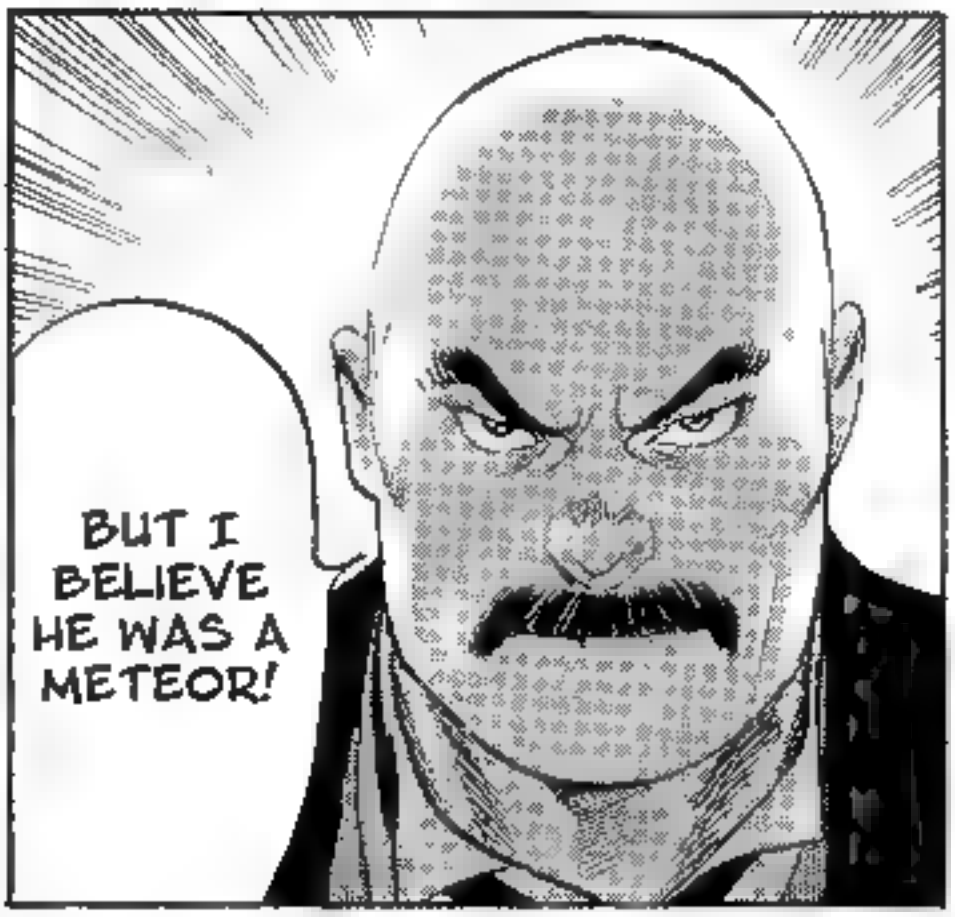
I GUESS BAD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN THE THREE OF US ARE TO-GETHER.

"AMATSU MIKA-HOSHI"...

"Amatsu Mikahoshi" is also known by the name Kakaseo, and is the one star god recorded in Japanese mythology

He was an evil god, the last of the wicked gods that roamed the Earth to submit prior to the descent of the heavenly grandson Ninigi.





THE "MIKA" IN MIKAHOSHI MEANS "URN"..

IT'S A LARGE VESSEL USED TO STORE FOOD

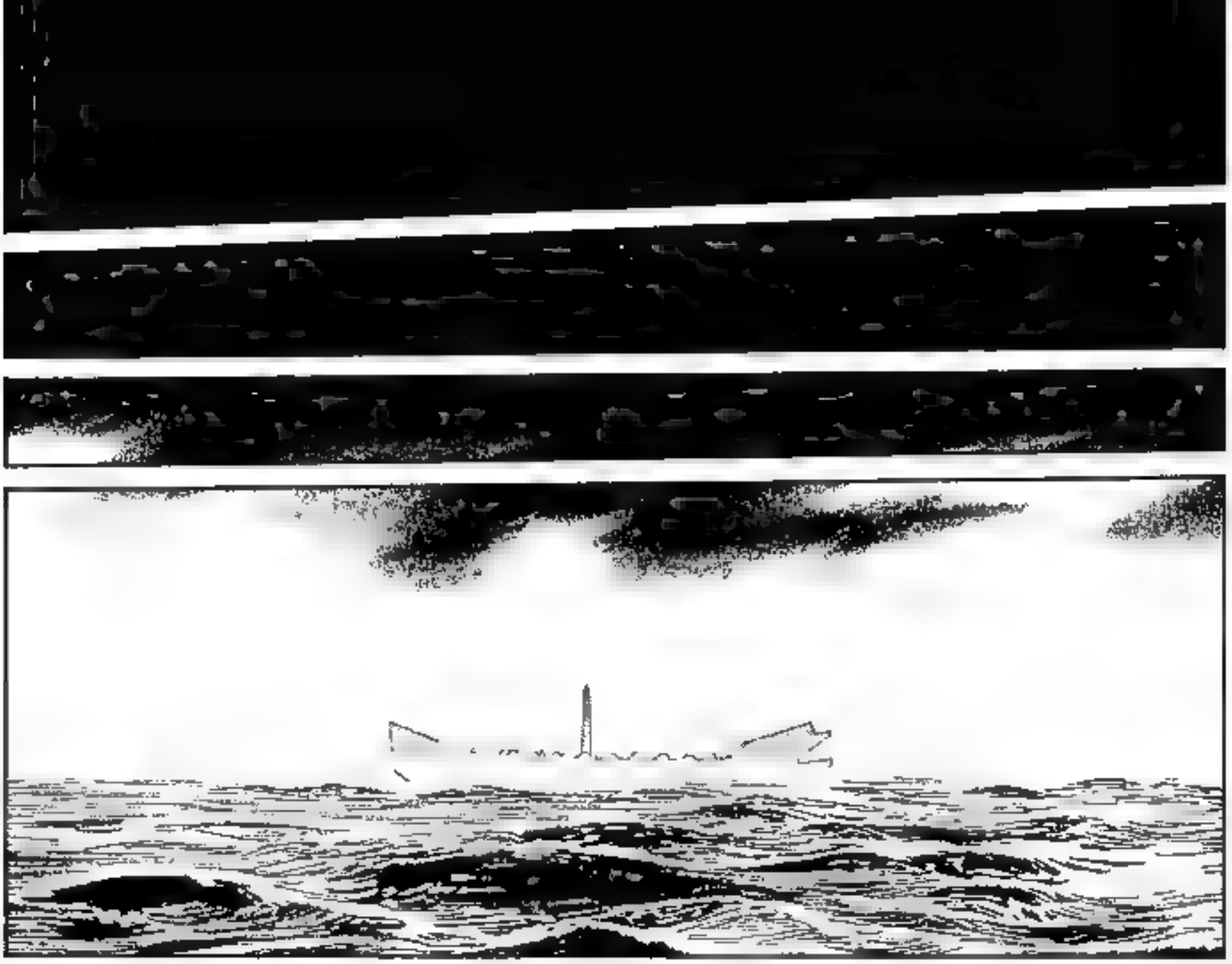
IT'S JUST THAT THINKING HELPS ME STAY CALM.

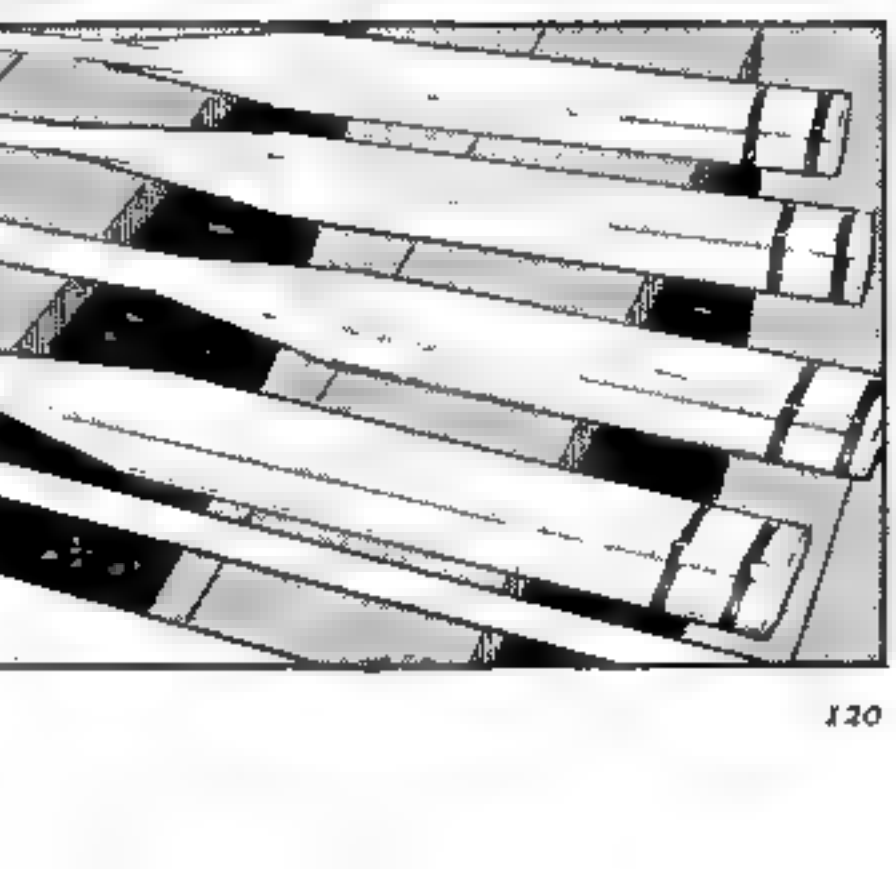
O OKAY, WE GET IT. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN TALK ABOUT THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

AND THAT GOD'S NAME WAS "MIKA-HAYAMI"!

REMEMBER WHAT WE SAW IN SHIKOKU, IMIBE? I CONCLUDED THAT THE GOD THAT RODE THE AME-NO-IWAFUNE WAS "METEORIC IRON" FROM SPACE...

A CRA-TER ...!!





OUR EMERGENCY FOOD AND WATER'S DRIFTED AWAY. WE'VE LOST OVER HALF OF OUR OARS. AND TO TOP THAT OFF...

I SEEM TO HAVE LOST MY LIGHTER AND COMPASS, AS WELL.
.....

WE CAN'T GET A HOLD OF ANYONE.
WHEN WE WERE THROWN OVERBOARD, EVERYONE'S CELL PHONES EITHER SANK OR WERE RUINED BY THE WATER.

...SO, WHERE ARE WE?

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT WE'VE PASSED THE KANMON STRAITS AND BEEN PUSHED OUT INTO THE SEA OF JAPAN.

W...WE MUST'VE BEEN CARRIED BY THE CURRENT OVER-NIGHT... RIGHT?

THE SEA OF JAPAN...

IF WE'RE CARRIED BY THE TSUSHIMA CURRENT, WE COULD END UP DRIFTING FURTHER AWAY FROM LAND...!

...Roger that. We will continue the search until night fall...

We still haven't found the ancient boat "Watatsumi" that went missing last night.

We're searching along the Tsushima Current in the Sea of Japan, but visibility's bad and it's difficult to find a small wooden boat on radar...

WE'RE OVER HERE! HEEEE EEEY!

HEE EEE EEE EE EY!

HUH ...?

AH HHH !?

WHY CAN'T THEY FIND US!? WE DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD OR WATER! WE'LL BECOME WEAK IF WE'RE OUT HERE A WHOLE DAY!

...THE ONLY THING WE KNOW IS THAT THEY'VE STARTED THE SEARCH.

FIND THE CRA-CKS!

T...THE BOTTOM MUST'VE CRACKED WHEN IT CAP-SIZED!

BUT ALL OUR TOOLS GOT WASHED AWAY...

NO, GET THE WATER OUT FIRST! THE BOAT'S GONNA SINK!

YAAAAAAAWN!

IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRTS, DOUBLE OR TRIPLE THEM UP, TIE THEM INTO A BAG, AND USE THEM AS BUCKETS. WHY DON'T YOU USE YOUR HEADS FOR ONCE!?

WE HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE HERE. JUST BAIL IT OUT WITH YOUR HANDS.

DAMMIT! WE CAN'T EVEN GET OUR BEARINGS FROM THE SUN IN THIS WEATHER!
THE CURRENT'S REALLY TAKEN US A LONG WAY... IF ONLY WE HAD OUR BEARINGS, WE COULD ROW OUR WAY BACK WITH THE OARS WE HAVE LEFT...
THE SUN...

JUST WHEN IT HAD FINALLY CLEARED UP, IT'S SUNDOWN... WE DON'T HAVE A PRAYER OF BEING FOUND AT NIGHT...

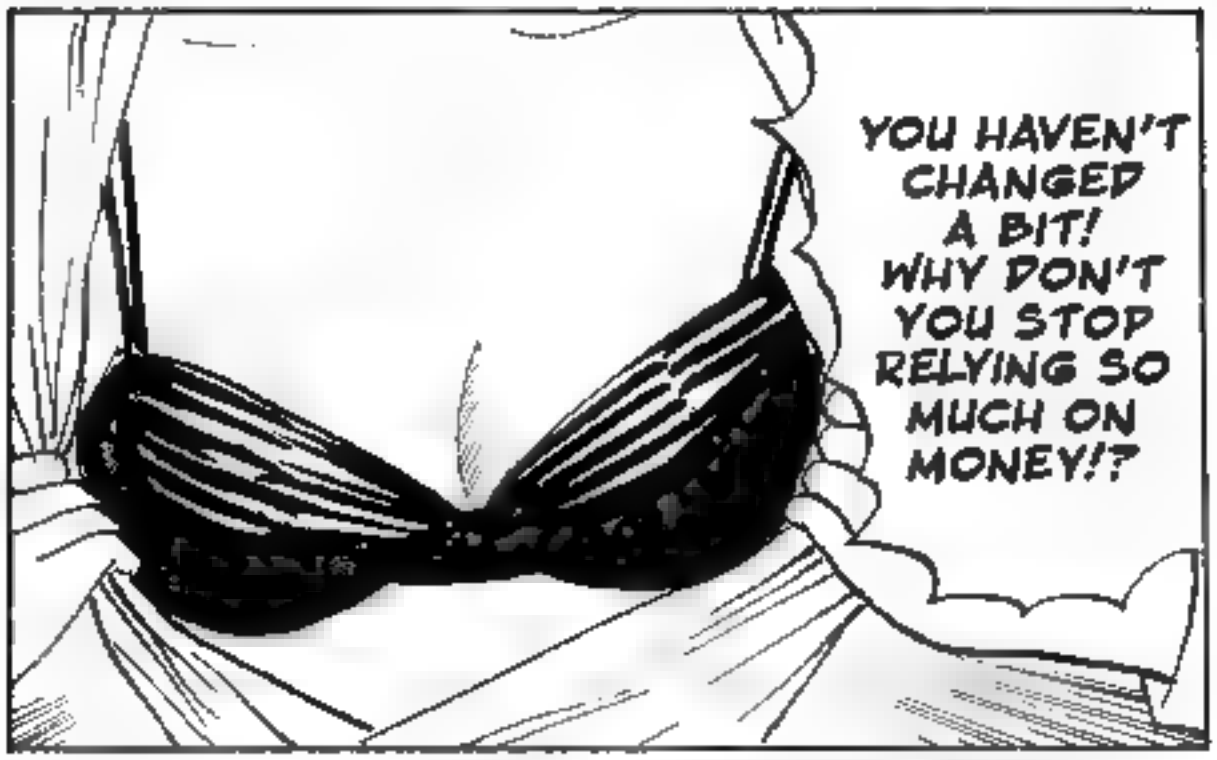
IF WE USE UP OUR STREN-GTH OVER-NIGHT, WE'RE THRO-UGH!

ISN'T THERE SOME OTHER WAY? THINK OF A WAY TO SAVE US! I'LL PAY YOU ANY-THING YOU WANT!

I...IS IT JUST ME OR ARE THE LEAKS GETTING WORSE!?

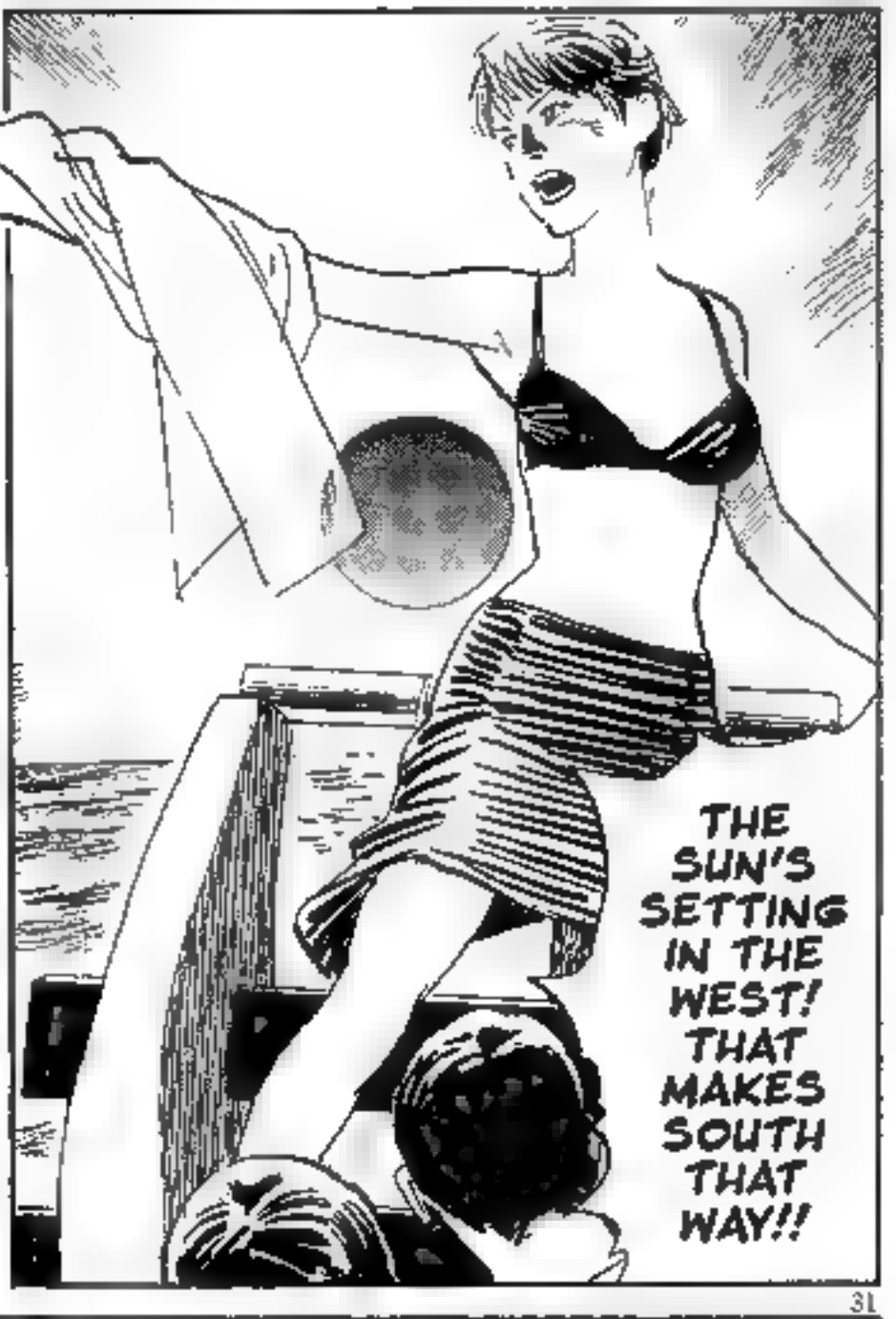
DON'T STOP BAILING! THE SEA-WATER'S STARTING TO OVER-FLOW.

30


YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT! WHY DON'T YOU STOP RELYING SO MUCH ON MONEY!?

TCH ...

IF THIS IS THE SEA OF JAPAN, THEN YOU'LL REACH THE SAN'IN COAST IF YOU ROW SOUTH LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!!


THE SUN'S SETTING IN THE WEST! THAT MAKES SOUTH THAT WAY!!

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ROW IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE! THE REST OF YOU KEEP BAILING! NOW MAN UP AND WORK!!

I'M NOT GONNA FALL BEHIND YOU KIDS!!

WELL, YOU'VE INSPIRED ME TO ROW BY TELLING ME TO MAN UP!

...BUT WE'RE NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO FIND OUR BEARINGS ONCE THE SUN SETS...

LOOK AT THE STARS SHINING ABOVE THE STERN.

AS LONG AS YOU CAN SEE POLARIS, WHICH ALWAYS POINTS TRUE NORTH, ABOVE THE STERN, THAT MEANS YOU'RE ROWING SOUTH.

DON'T YOU EVEN KNOW ABOUT POLARIS, AMINO...? HERE, SWITCH OUT WITH ME...

BECAUSE OF THE EARTH'S ROTATION, THE STARS SEEM TO ROTATE IN THE NIGHT SKY, BUT POLARIS ALONE NEVER MOVES...!

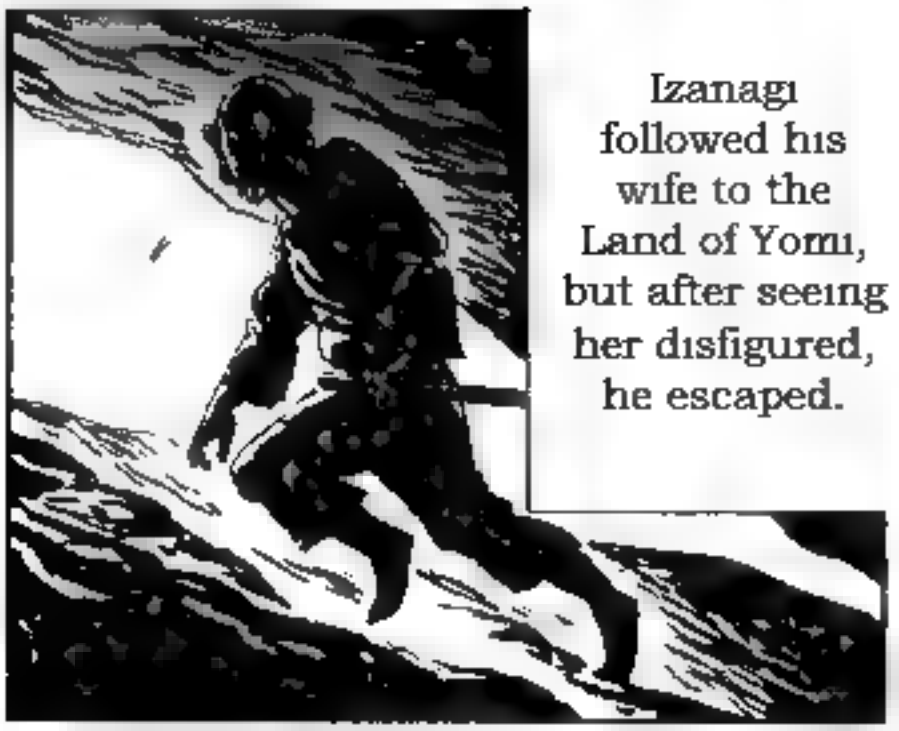
ONE THEORY STATES THAT IZANAGI IS THE GOD OF THE HEAVENS...

IN THE BEGIN-NINGS OF JAPA-NESE MYTHOLOGY, A GOD AND HIS CONSORT NAMED IZANAGI AND IZANAMI WEDDED AROUND THE "AME-NO-MIHASHIRA", OR PILLAR OF HEAVEN.

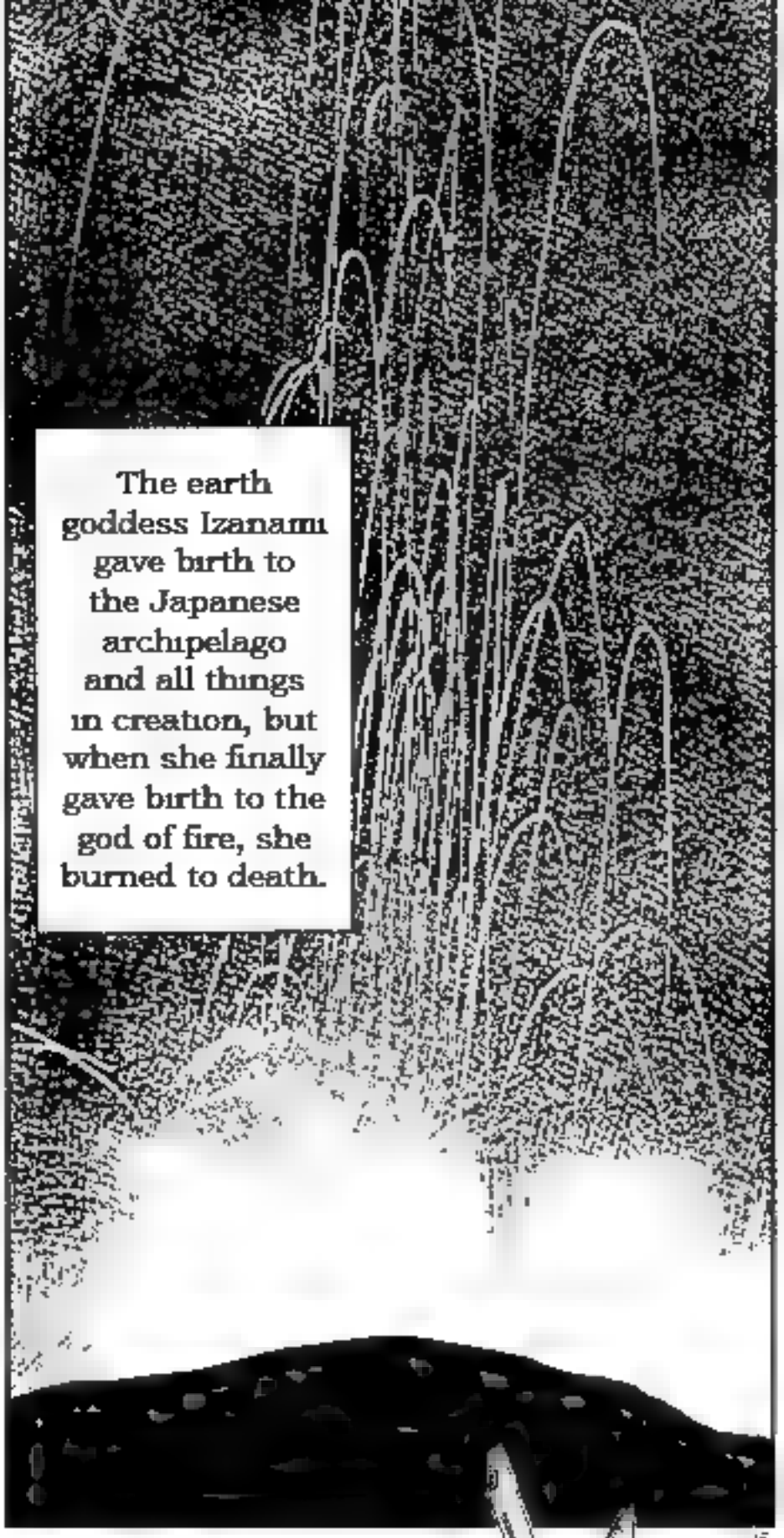
WHILE IZANAMI IS THE GODDESS OF THE EARTH...

AND THE AME-NO-MIHASHIRA IS THE UNMOVING POLARIS.

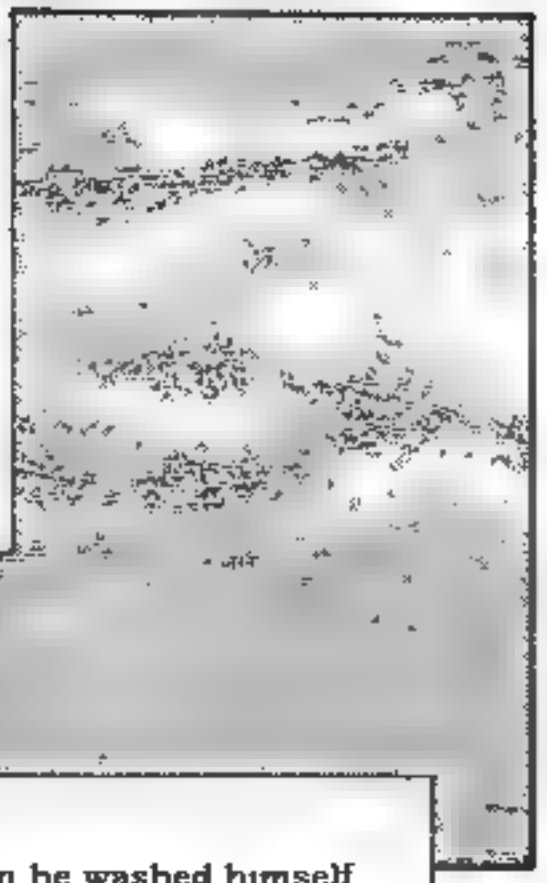
THIS WOULD MAKE THIS A GRAND MYTH, IN WHICH THE HEAVENS AND EARTH WEDDED BY ROTATING AROUND POLARIS.



Izanagi followed his wife to the Land of Yomi, but after seeing her disfigured, he escaped.



The earth goddess Izanami gave birth to the Japanese archipelago and all things in creation, but when she finally gave birth to the god of fire, she burned to death.



When he had performed a "purification" in Hinata, Kyushu, and cleansed himself of the impurity of death, Izanagi also gave birth to gods

When he washed himself in the bottom of the ocean, he gave birth to "Sokotsutsuno'o" When he washed himself in the middle of the ocean, he gave birth to "Nakatsutsuno'o". And when he washed himself on the surface, he gave birth to "Uwatsutsuno'o"

These were the Three Gods of Sumiyoshi

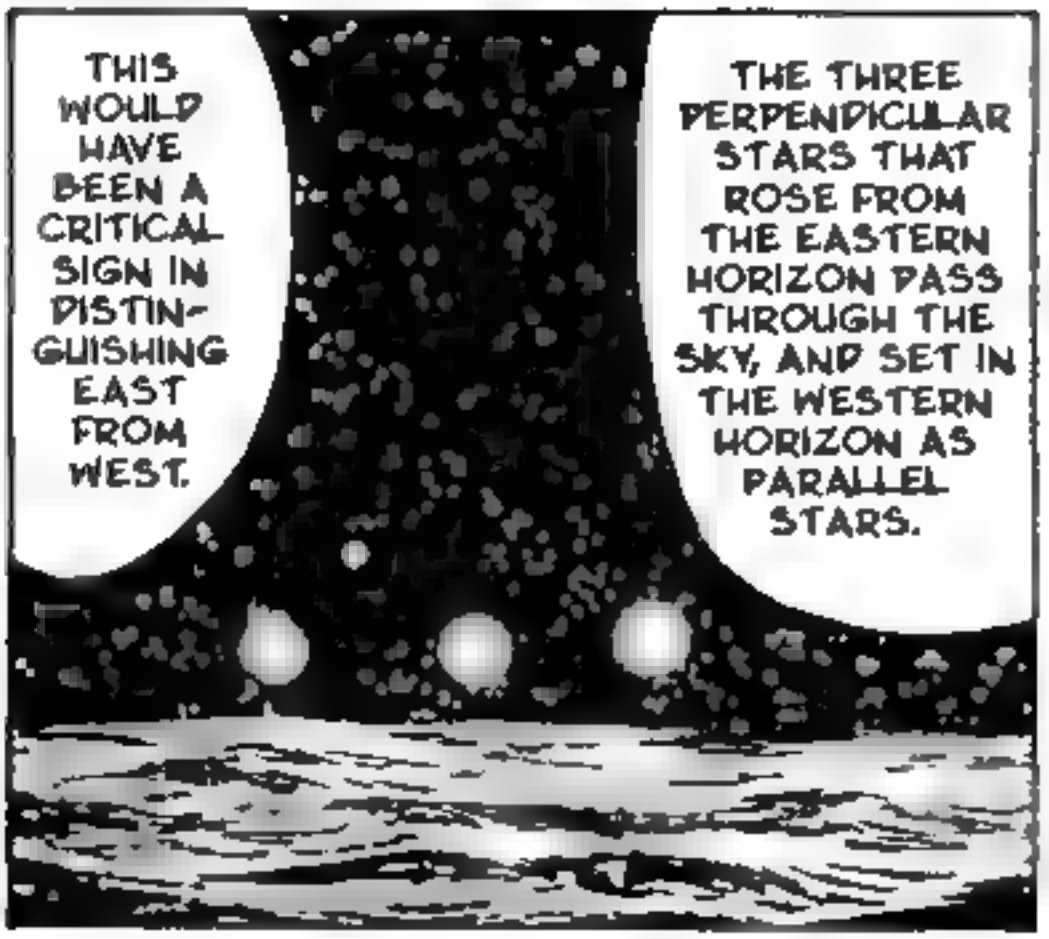
BUT "TSUTSU" IS THE ARCHAIC WORD FOR STAR. LOOK!

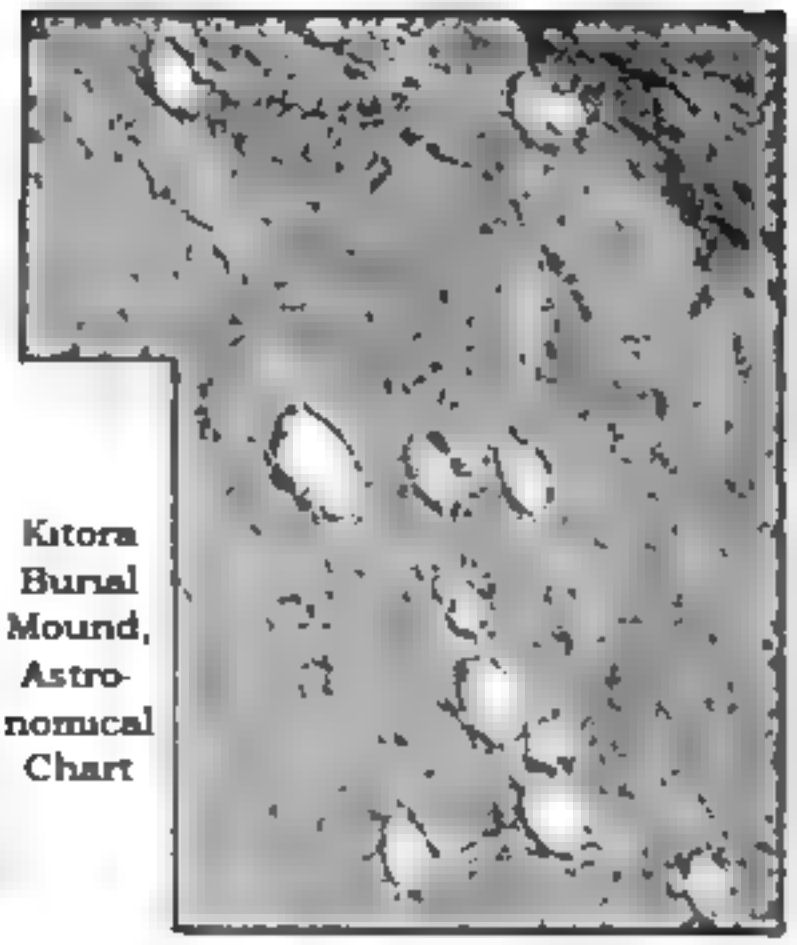
I ASKED YOU ABOUT THE MEANING OF "TSUTSU" BACK AT SUMIYOSHI GRAND SHRINE...

IN THE WEST, THEY ARE KNOWN AS ORION'S BELT!

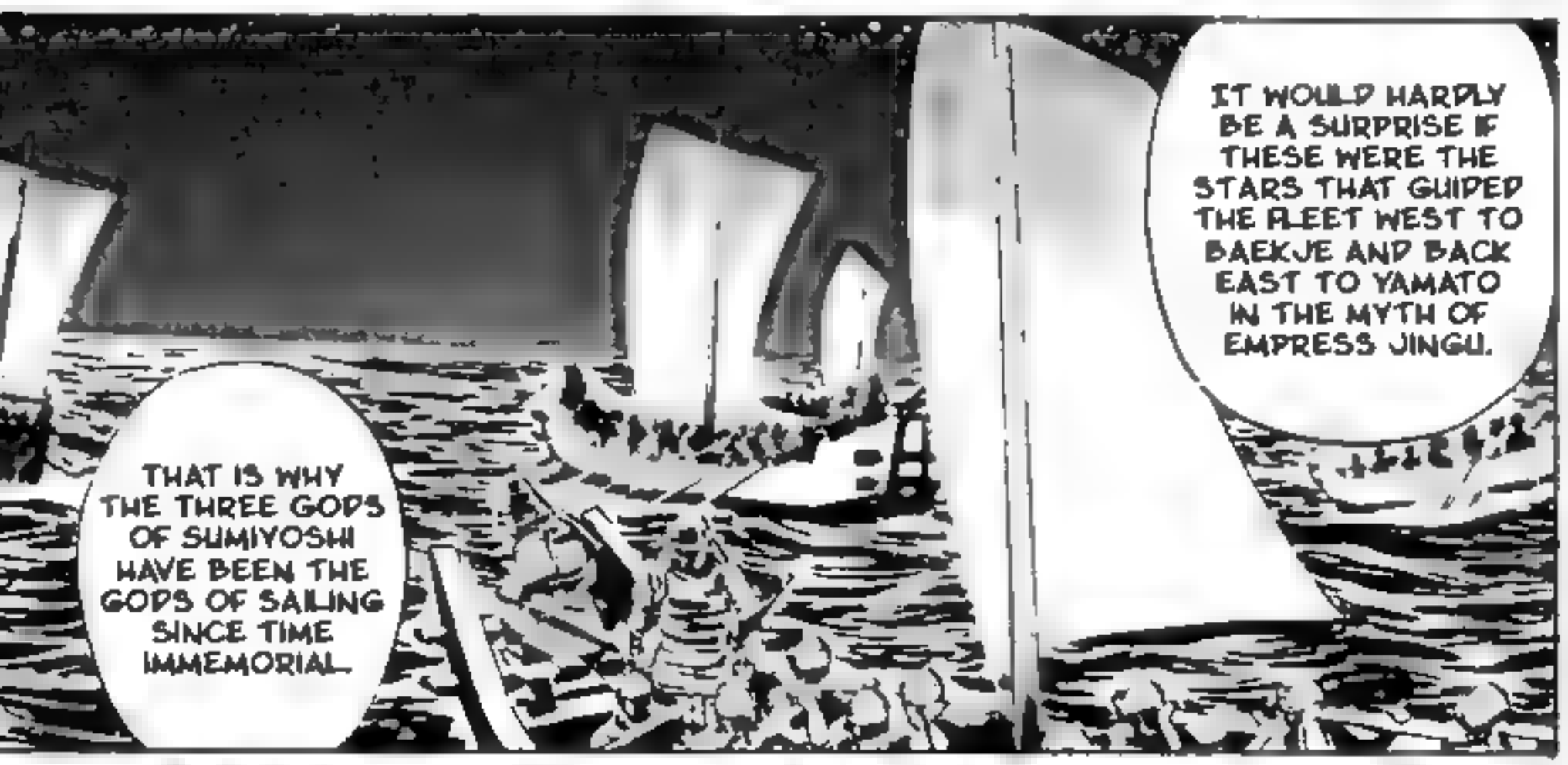
SINCE THEY APPEAR TO BE PASSING THROUGH THE SEABED, THE OPEN OCEAN, AND THE SEA SURFACE, THEY ARE SOKOTSUSUNO'O, NAKATSUTSUNO'O, AND UWATSU-TSUNO'O.

THERE ARE THREE STARS ON A LINE PER-PENDICULAR TO THE EASTERN HORIZON.


THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A CRITICAL SIGN IN DISTIN-GUISHING EAST FROM WEST.
THE THREE PERPENDICULAR STARS THAT ROSE FROM THE EASTERN HORIZON PASS THROUGH THE SKY, AND SET IN THE WESTERN HORIZON AS PARALLEL STARS.



Kitora Burial Mound, Astro-nomical Chart


THAT IS WHY THE THREE GODS OF SUMIYOSHI HAVE BEEN THE GODS OF SAILING SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL.
IT WOULD HARDLY BE A SURPRISE IF THESE WERE THE STARS THAT GUIDED THE FLEET WEST TO BAEKJE AND BACK EAST TO YAMATO IN THE MYTH OF EMPRESS JINGU.

The ancients often thought of the universe as an eggshell like "celestial sphere" rotating around the land and sea.

Naturally, these holes were like "tsutsu", or tubes, with as much depth as the celestial sphere was thick.

The "stars" were countless holes in the celestial sphere.

Tubes .. These were the shapes of the stars, according to the ancients

HE WASHED HIS RIGHT EYE, AND GAVE BIRTH TO THE MOON GOD TSUKUYOMI.

AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO THE STAR GODS, IZANAGI WASHED HIS LEFT EYE AND GAVE BIRTH TO THE SUN GODDESS AMATERASU.

.....

They truly were the eyes of the celestial gods.. And finally, he washed his nose, and gave birth to Susano'o

WHEN YOU LOOK AT IT THIS WAY, THE EARTH GODDESS IZANAGI GAVE BIRTH TO ALL THINGS ON EARTH, BUT THE HEAVENLY GOD IZANAGI KEPT ON GIVING BIRTH TO THE CELESTIAL BODIES...

SUSANO'O... I'VE HYPO-THESIZED HIM TO REPRESENT A COMET.

ITS SUDDEN APPEARANCE WHICH DISRUPTS THE ORDER OF THE UNIVERSE, ALWAYS OPPOSING THE SUN, WAS FITTING FOR THE HEAVENLY HOOLIGAN.

BUT THEY MAY VERY WELL HAVE HAD MYTHS THAT THEY BEGAN TELL-ING BY LOOK-ING AT THE CONSTELLA-TIONS IN THE STARRY SKY.

THEY SAY THAT JAPAN HAS NEXT TO NO MYTHS ABOUT STARS, COMPARED TO GREEK MYTHOLOGY...

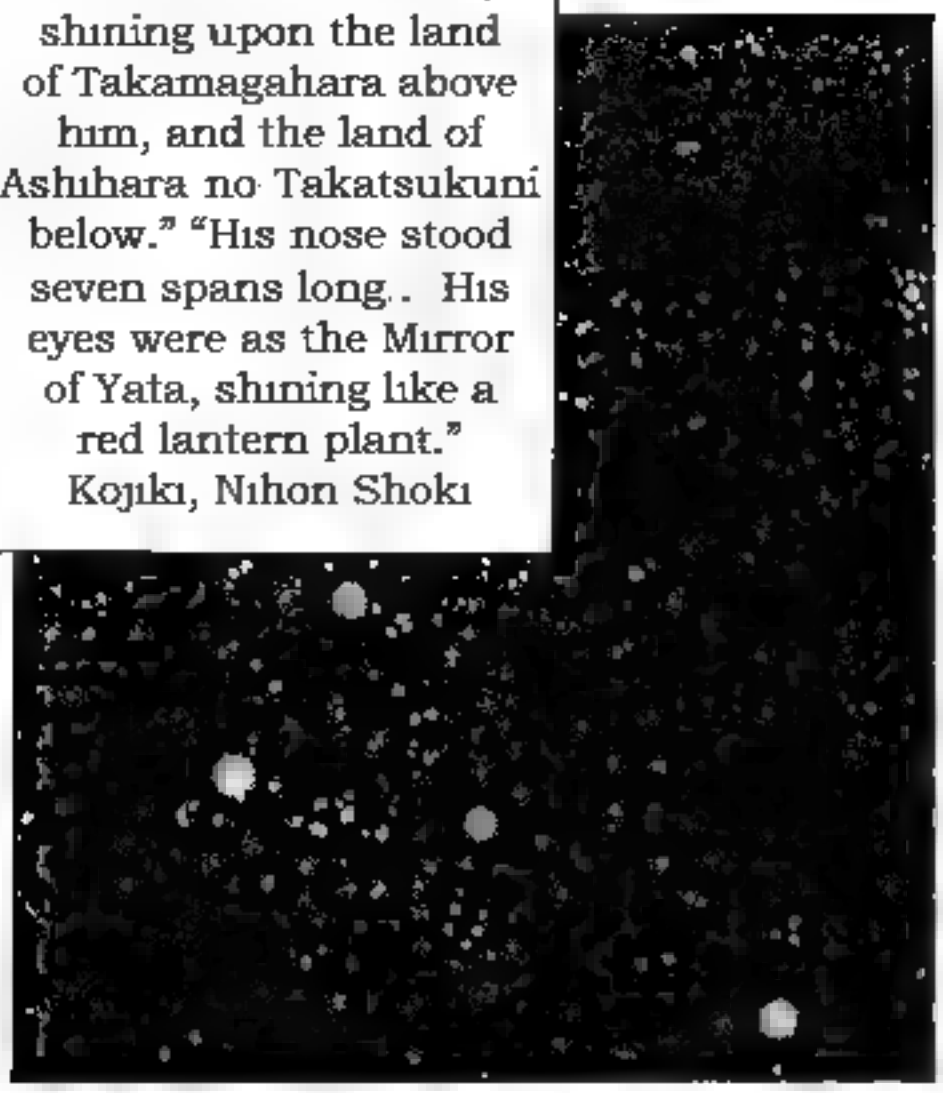
IT HAS LONG BEEN SAID THAT THE SUN GODDESS AMATERASU HIDING IN AMA-NO-IWATO OUT OF ANGER AT HER VIOLENT BROTHER SUSANO'O WAS A REFERENCE TO A SOLAR ECLIPSE.

TO RESTORE THE DARKENED WORLD, THE GODS GATHERED AND CONFERRED IN AME-NO-YASU-NO-KAWA.

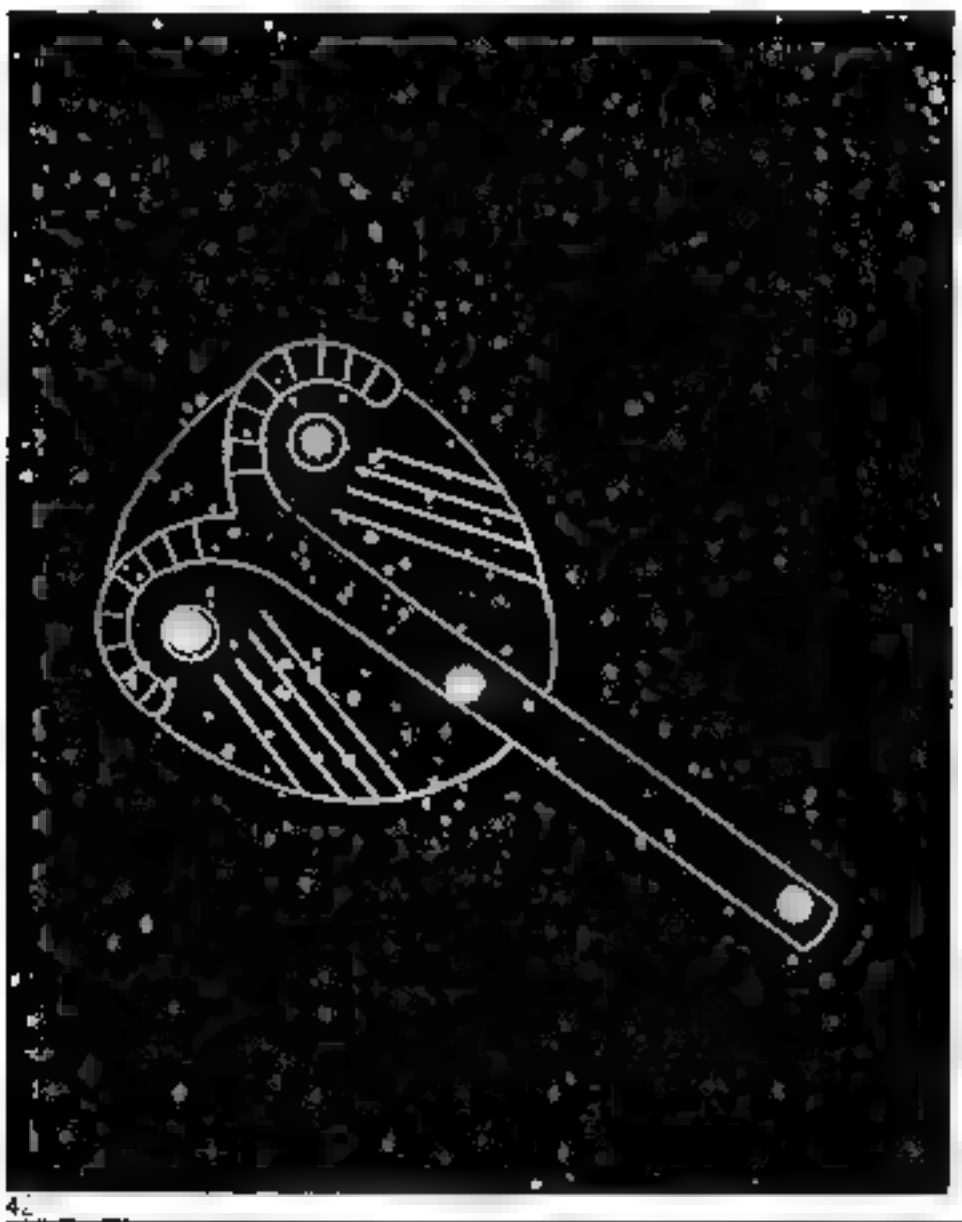
天安河原宮

THE MYRIAD GODS ASSEMBLED IN THE RIVER FLOWING THROUGH TAKAMAGAHARA...

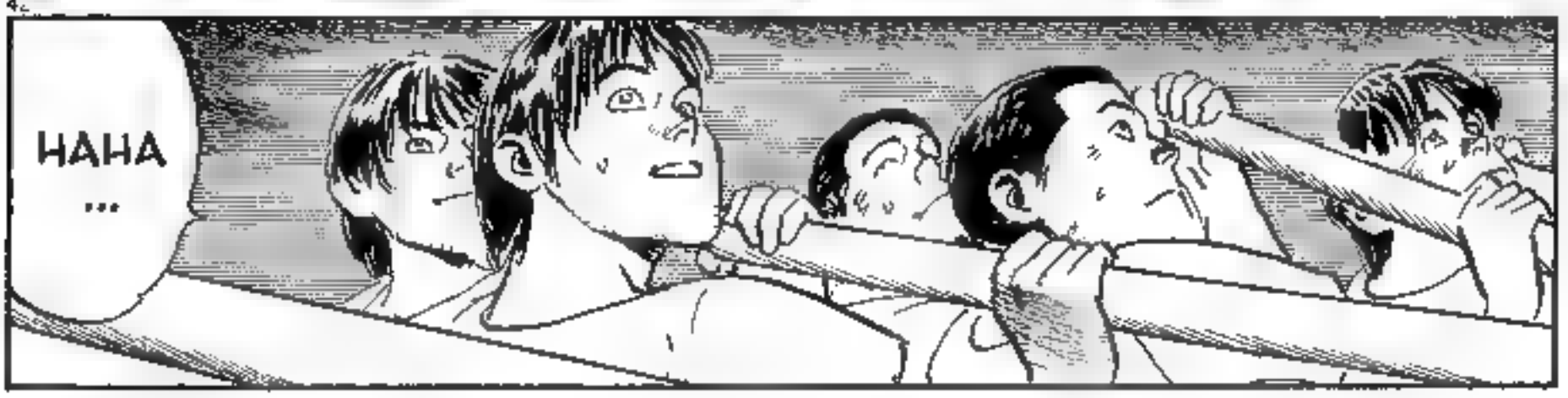
"A god that stood at the crossroads of heaven, shining upon the land of Takamagahara above him, and the land of Ashihara no Takatsukuni below." "His nose stood seven spans long. His eyes were as the Mirror of Yata, shining like a red lantern plant."
Kojiki, Nihon Shoki



WHEN THE HEAVENLY GRANDSON OF AMATERASU WAS DESCENDING FROM TAKA-MAGAHARA TO THE EARTH, HE ENCOUNTERED A GOD CALLED SARUTAHIKO.



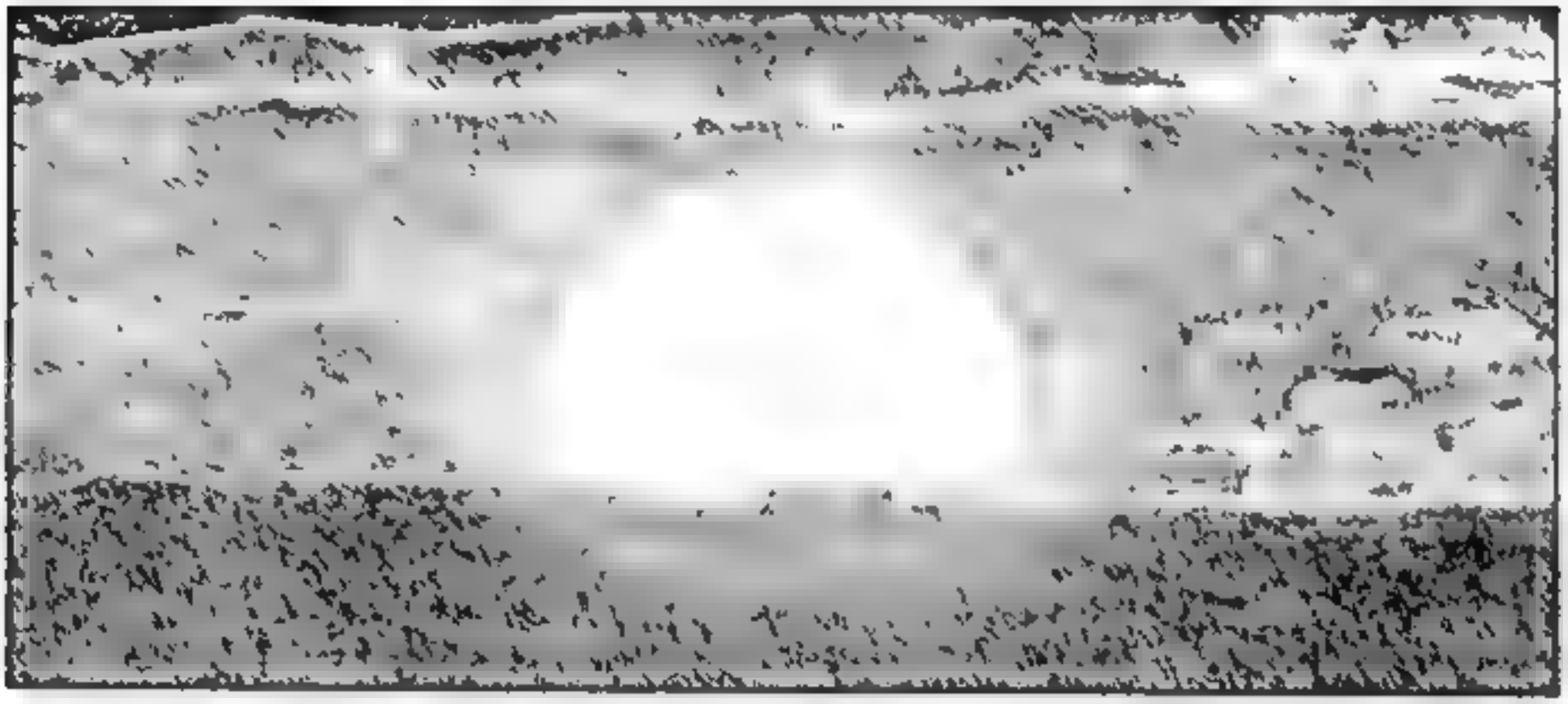
THERE IS A THEORY THAT SARUTAHIKO CORRE-SPONDS TO THE "NET" IN TAURUS... THE HYADES STAR CLUSTER.
YOU CAN SEE A FACE THERE WITH A LONG NOSE, AND ALDEBARAN, THE STAR AS RED AS A LANTERN PLANT, AS ITS EYE.

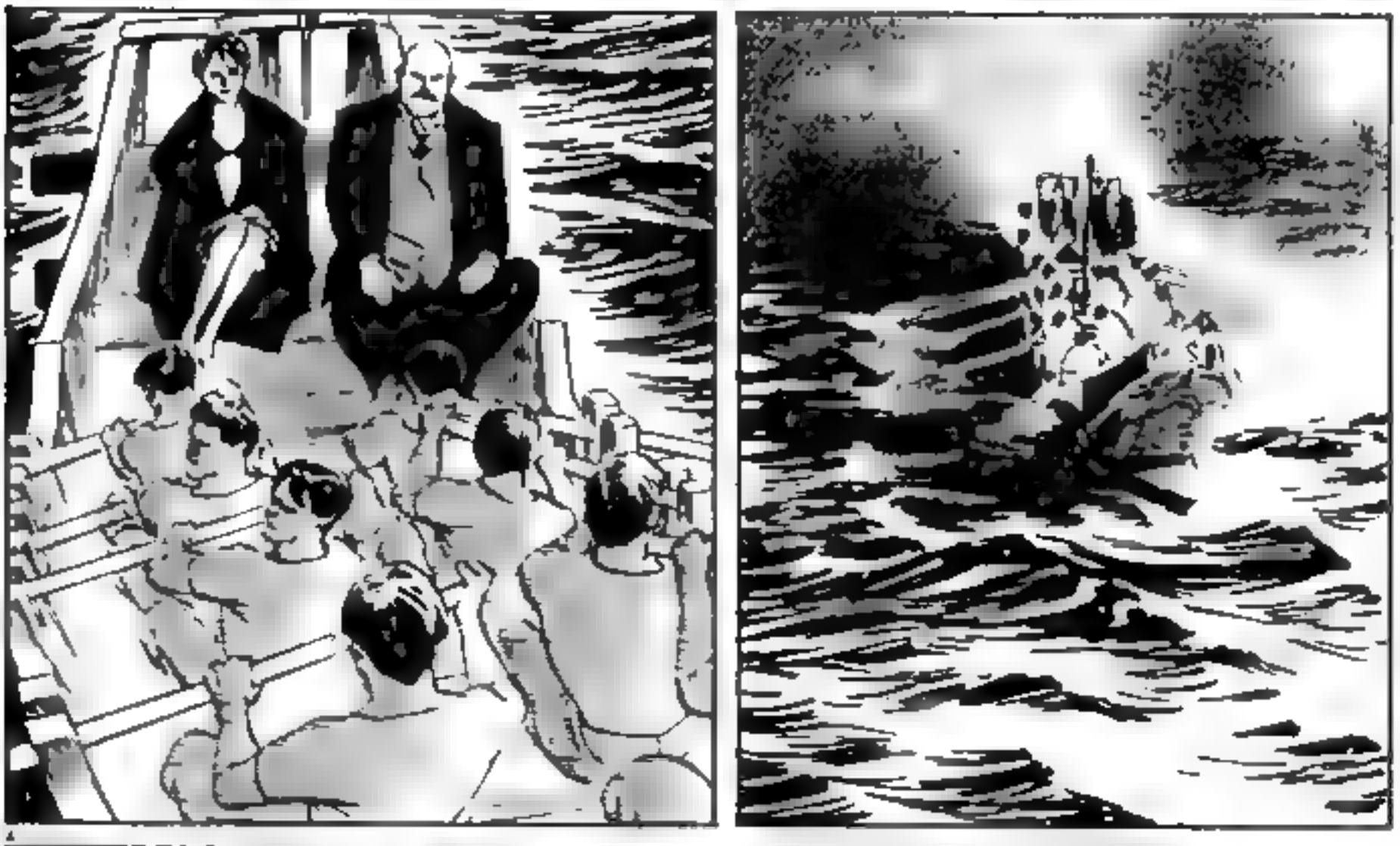


BUT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN HOW PEOPLE PASSED THESE MYTHS DOWN IN THE DAYS BEFORE WRITING AND DRAWING.

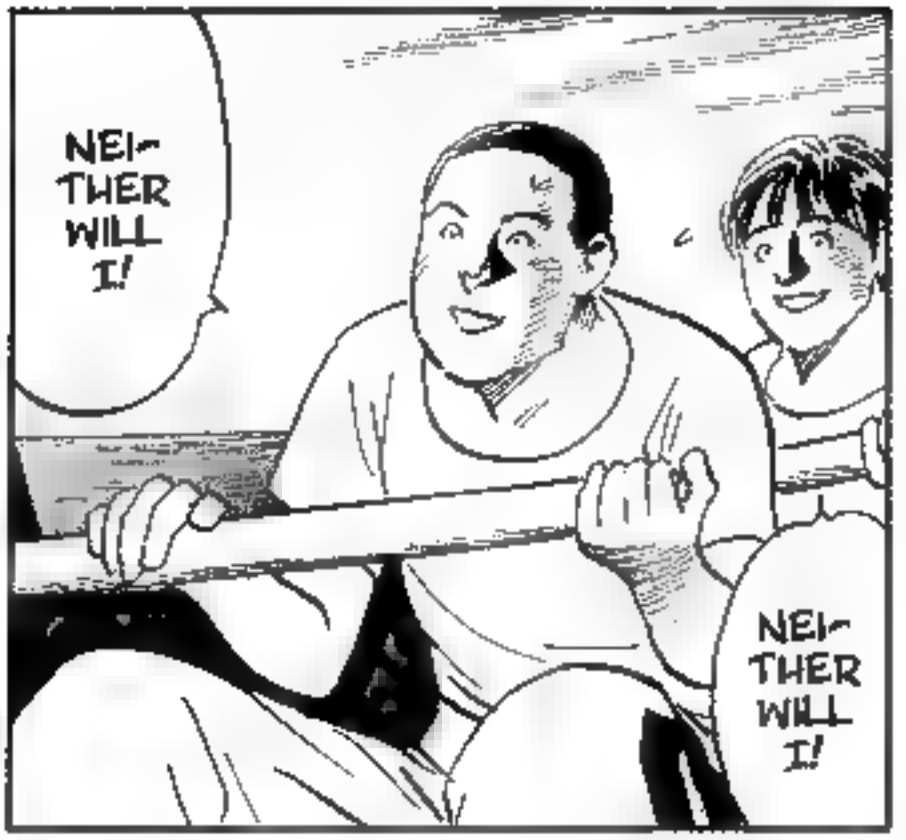
NOWADAYS, MYTHOLOGY IS RELEGATED TO ANCIENT TEXTS THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO DECIPHER AND READ...

THEY POINTED TO THE HEAVENS AND TRACED THE CONSTELLATIONS, JUST LIKE THIS...

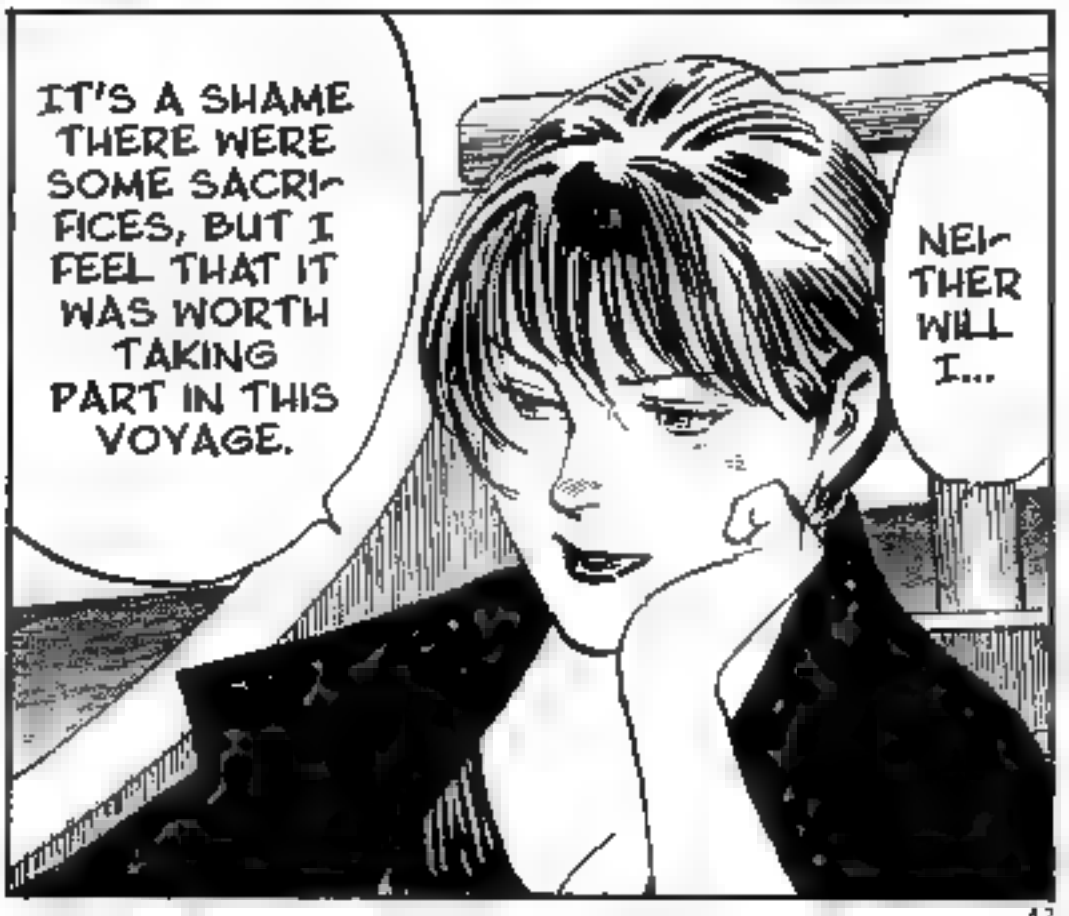




YOUR LECTURE LAST NIGHT WAS REALLY INTEREST-ING, PRO-FESSOR MUNAKATA.
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER FORGET IT...


NEI-
THER
WILL
I!
NEI-
THER
WILL
I!

BESIDES
THE
MONEY?


IT'S A SHAME
THERE WERE
SOME SACRI-
FICES, BUT I
FEEL THAT IT
WAS WORTH
TAKING
PART IN THIS
VOYAGE.
NEI-
THER
WILL
I...

47

HEE
EEE
EEE
EEE
EEE
EEE
EEY
!!
HE
EE
EE
EE
EE
EE
EY!

THOUGH
IT DOES
SEEM THAT
RICH MAN
HASN'T
CHANGED
AT ALL...
YEAH,
PROB-
ABLY...

HEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEY!!

THE OAKE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MIYAMA

CHAPTER 18

PRESENTED BY

HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY

SYSTEMATICCHAOS

EDITING BY

HIGHTIDE AND KAZUHIKO

PROOFREADING BY

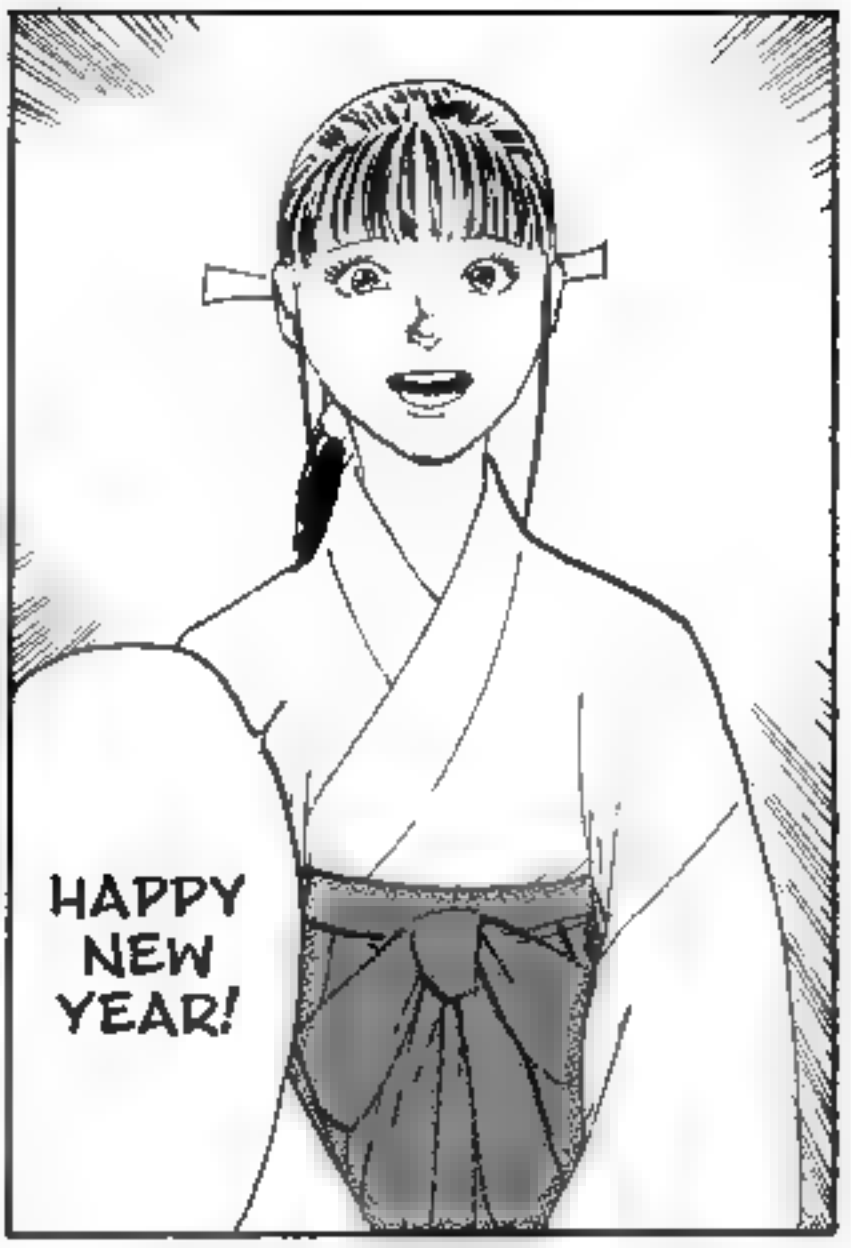
DESTORYERRING

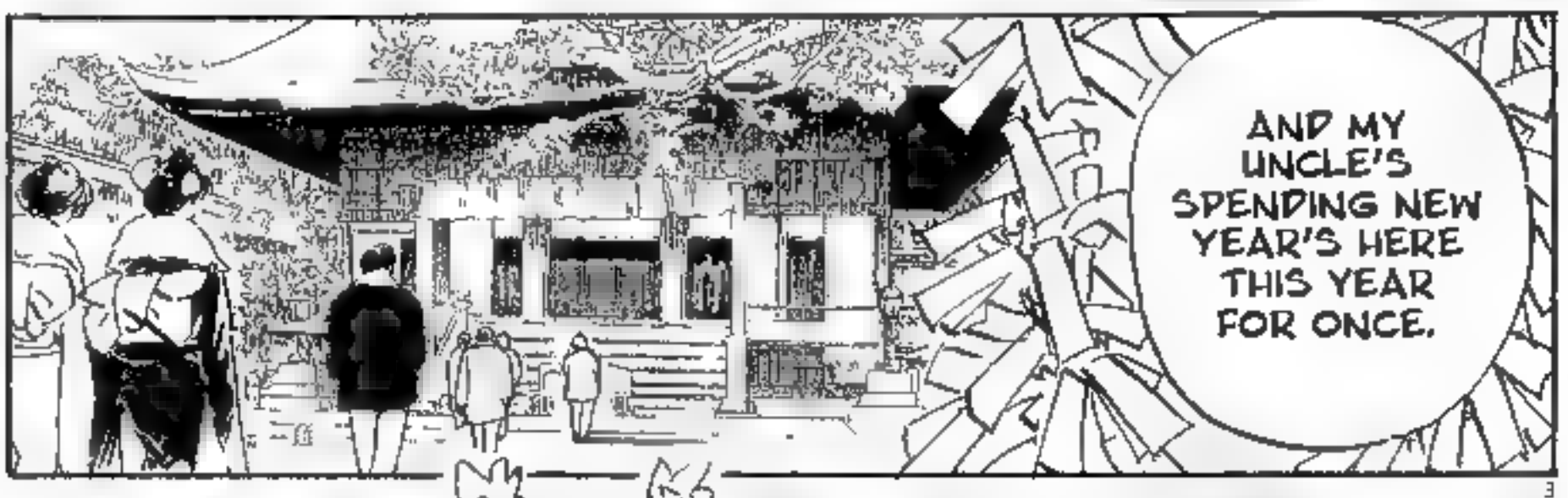
CHAPTER 19:
THE HAG OF YOMI

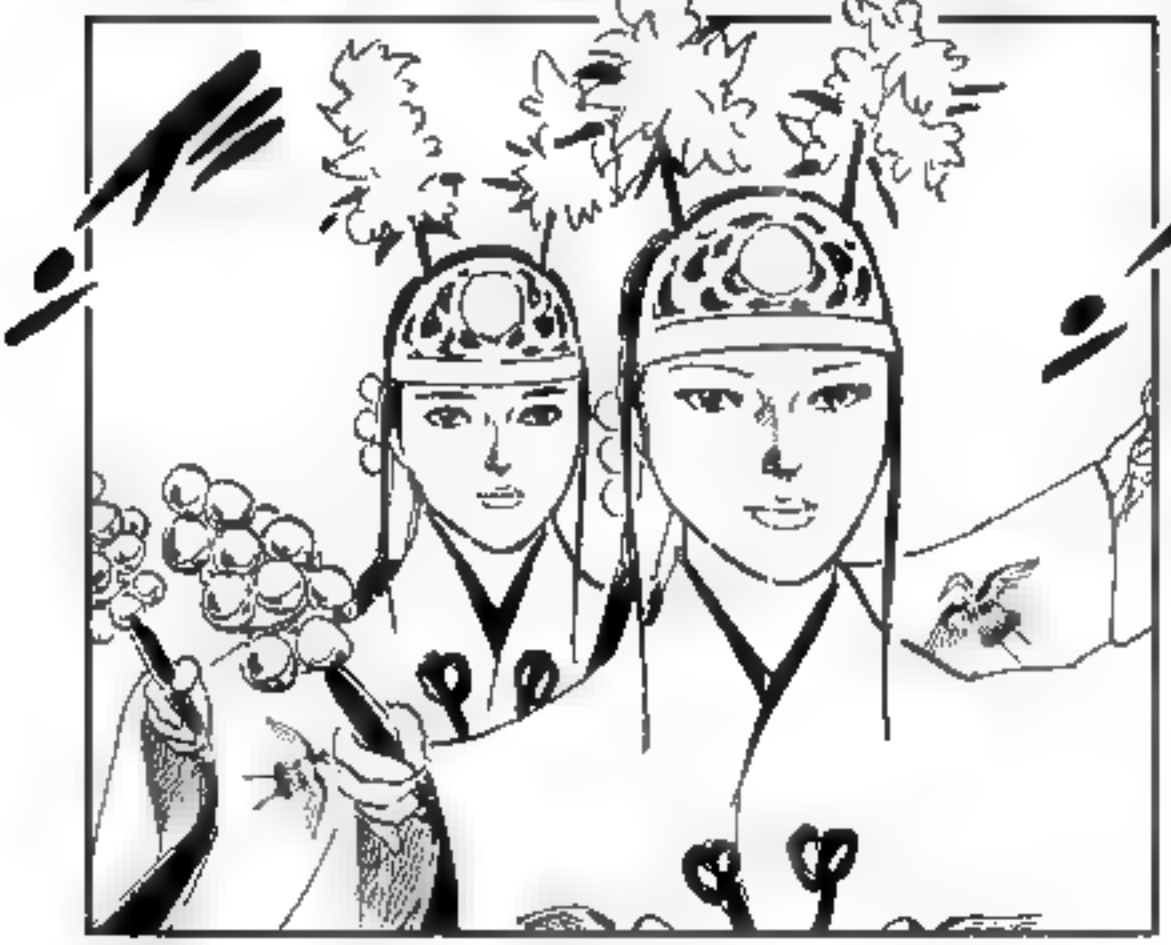
Kyushu
Munakata City,
Fukuoka Prefecture

Amateru Hoakari
Shrine

HAPPY NEW YEAR, TAKI. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN YOUR SHRINE MAIDEN UNIFORM IN A WHILE.
I THOUGHT I SHOULD HELP MY SISTERS OUT OVER NEW YEAR'S.


HAPPY NEW YEAR!


AND MY UNCLE'S SPENDING NEW YEAR'S HERE THIS YEAR FOR ONCE.



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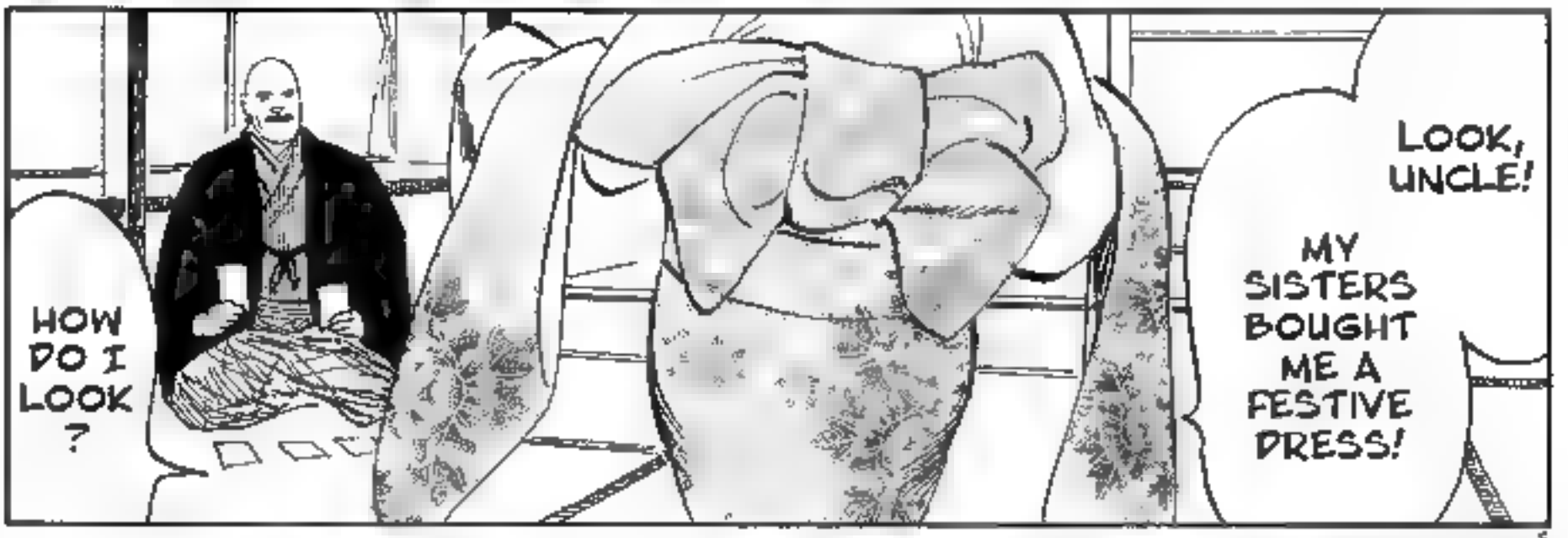
SHRINE OFFICE


HOW DO I LOOK ?
LOOK, UNCLE!
MY SISTERS BOUGHT ME A FESTIVE DRESS!

WHAT'S THAT PICTURE OF?
WELL, IT MAY BE NEW YEAR'S, BUT IT'S ONLY THE LOCALS THAT COME MAKE A VISIT HERE..

OH, VERY PRETTY... ARE YOU DONE HELPING THEM?

IT'S A "MASKED EARTHEN FIGURE" THAT THEY'VE EXCA-VATED IN PLACES LIKE NAGANO PREFEC-TURE.

THIS ONE WAS DIS-COVERED A FEW YEARS AGO IN NA-KATSUBARA RUINS, CHINO CITY, AND IT'S KNOWN AS THE "MASKED GODDESS".

THE NAGANO NICHINICHI NEWS ASKED ME TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ON MASKED EARTHEN FIGURES FOR THEIR SPECIAL JOMON EDITION...

YEAH, IT DOES LOOK LIKE IT'S WEARING A MASK.

Feminine earthen figures wearing masks .. They have also un earthed "earthen masks", which seem to have been actually worn on their faces.

They have also unearthed masked feminine figures in European ruin sites, so you could say that the ancients avoided blatantly representing the faces of people or gods

"Masked Woman", Yugoslavia

HON-ESTLY, I'M AT A BIT OF A LOSS.

BUT IS THAT REALLY THE ONLY REASON THEY ADDED THE MASKS?

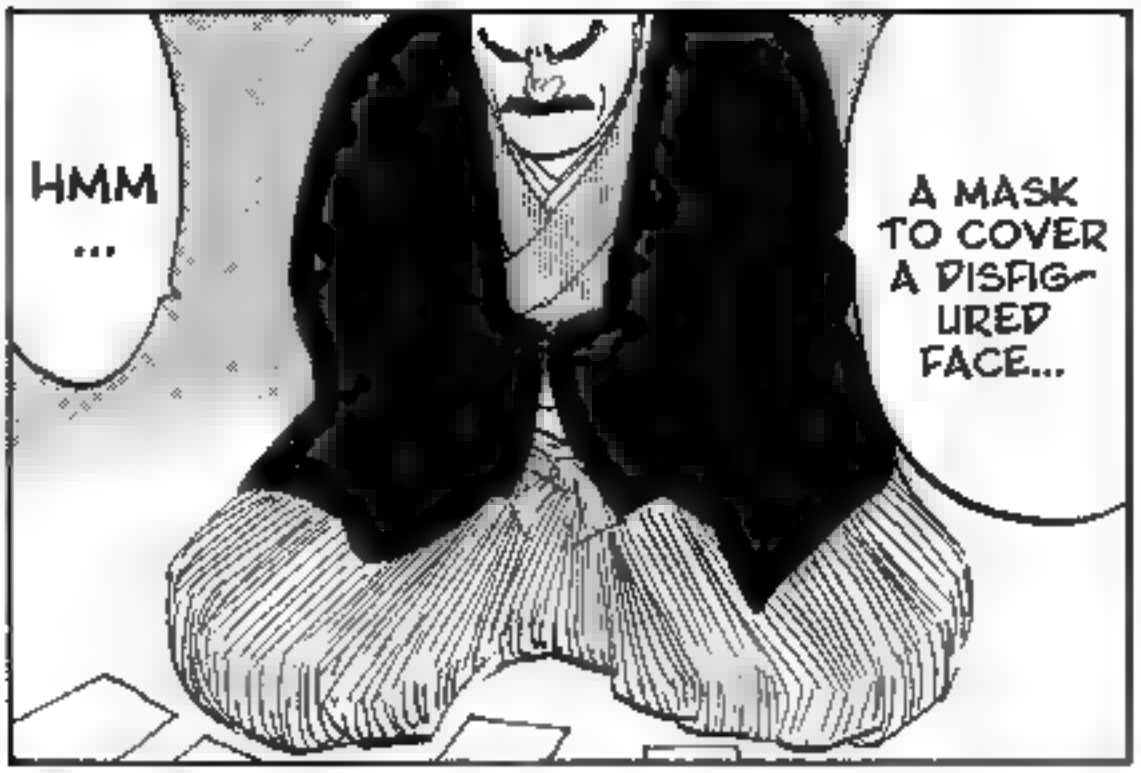
THEY MAY HAVE PUT IT ON THEIR HEADS WITH SOMETHING LIKE A BELT... KIND OF LIKE AN UMPIRE'S MASK.

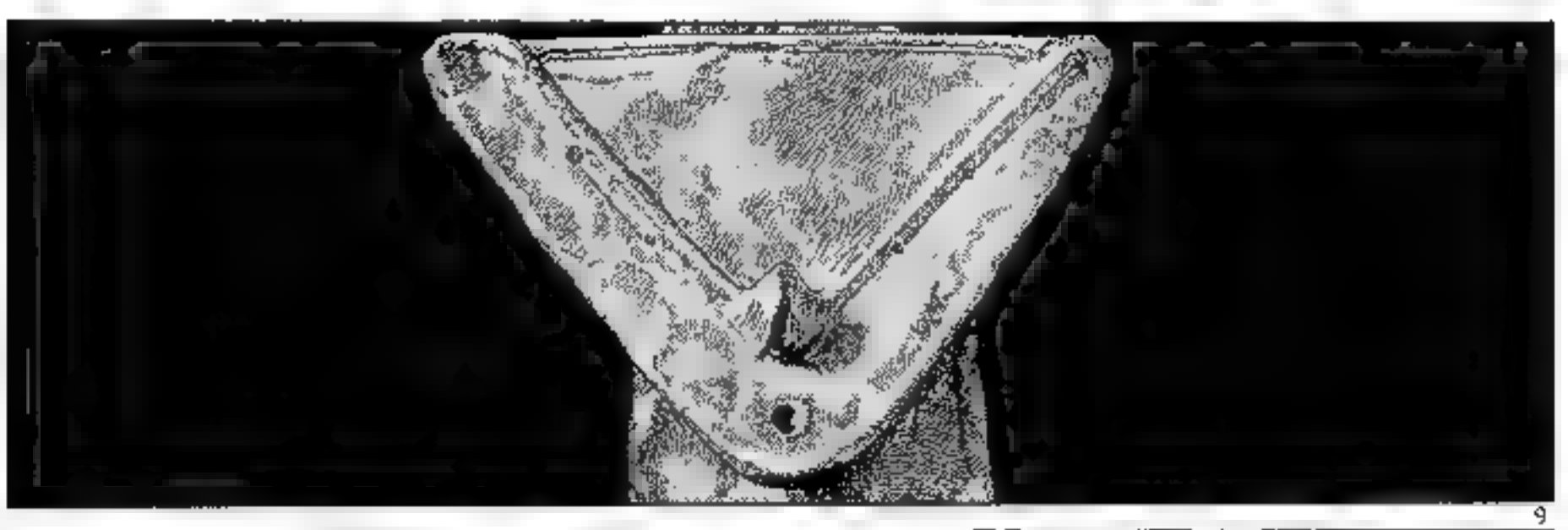
THIS MASK ALMOST LOOKS LIKE A TRIANGULAR SLAB. IT'S STUCK RIGHT ONTO ITS FACE. I BET THAT WOULD MAKE IT HARD TO BREATHE.

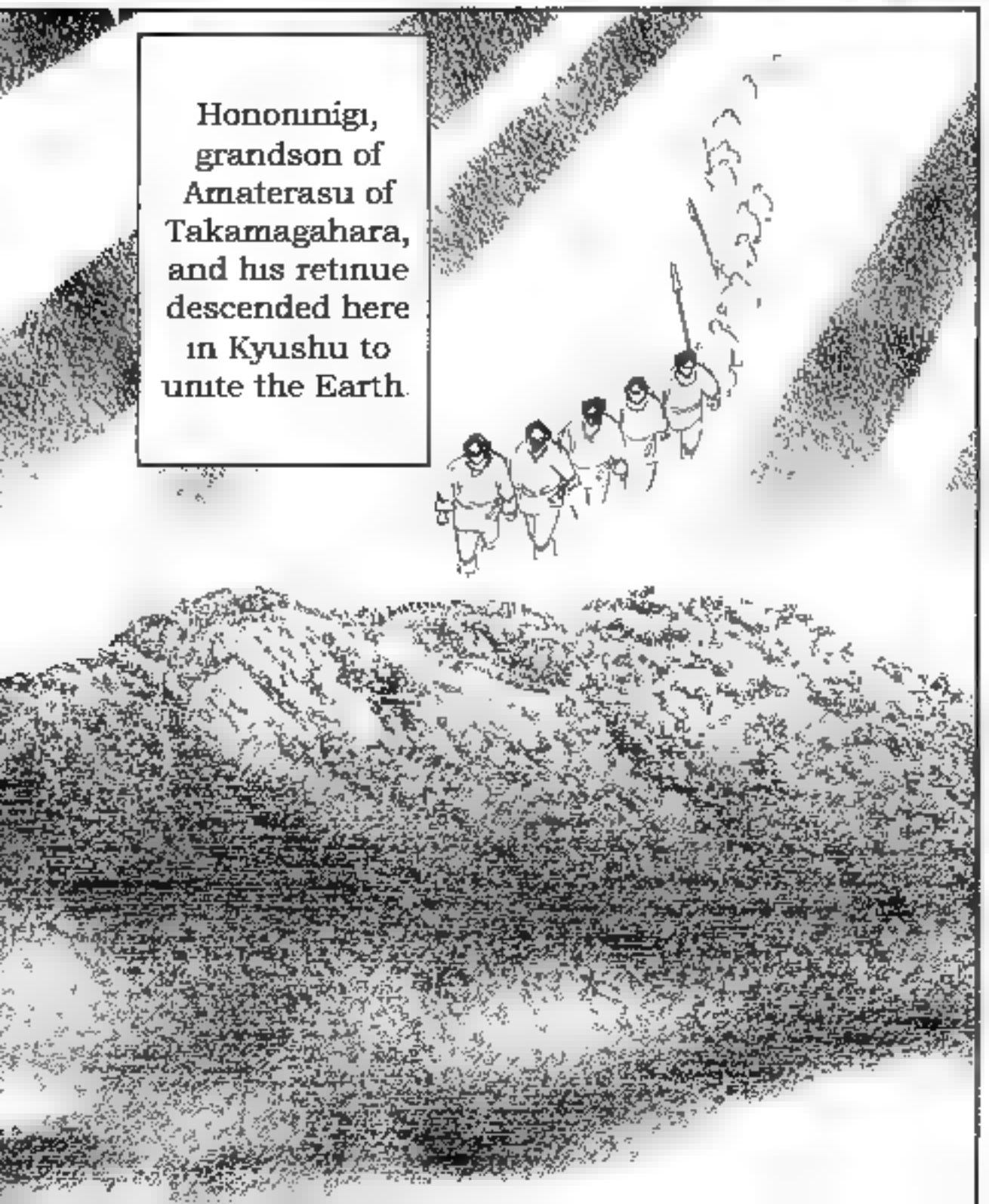
MAYBE IF MY FACE WAS DISFIGURED BY A DISEASE OR INJURY... YOU CAN FIX IT WITH PLASTIC SURGERY NOW, BUT BACK THEN THEY MAY HAVE COVERED IT WITH A MASK...

AN UMPIRE'S MASK, EH... HEHEHE... TAKI, WHAT KINDS OF SETTINGS WOULD YOU WEAR A MASK IN?

ME? WELL, LET'S SEE...


HMM
...
A MASK TO COVER A DISFIG-URED FACE...




Hononinigi, grandson of Amaterasu of Takamagahara, and his retinue descended here in Kyushu to unite the Earth.

SPEAKING OF DISFIGURED, THERE'S A STORY IN JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY...

Oyamatsumi was over joyed, and delivered him his daughter, along with goods for the wedding.

In South Kyushu, Hononinigi fell in love at first sight with Konohana Sakuya hime, daughter of the provincial god Oyamatsumi, and proposed to her immediately

But he did not present Konohana Sakuya hime alone, but also her elder sister, Iwanaga hime.

Hononinigi was re pulsed by the elder's ugliness, and sent her back

But because he returned Iwanaga hime, he was cursed

Had he wed them both, the heavenly grandson would have lived luxuriantly, like blossoms on trees

Iwanaga hime was ugly as a stone, yet as eternally steadfast

Konohana Sakuya hime was as beautiful as a flower, yet as fleeting.

From then on, the Heavenly Grandson and all humans lived lives as short as a flower's. !

IF THAT WAS THE CASE, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO HIDE THEIR FACES WITH A MASK...

THEY MAY HAVE BELIEVED THAT THEY COULD OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR EXTREME UGLINESS.

AND THIS IS THE REASON THAT PEOPLE LIVE SHORT LIVES.

HMMM... THIS IS A HARD ONE...

EVERYONE'S HERE? THEN LET'S HAVE A NEW YEAR'S CEL-EBRATION.

I'M HELPING UNCLE WITH HIS WORK!

OH, I THOUGHT YOU WERE PLAYING CARDS TOGE-THER.

HOORAY!

HERE, TAGIRI, ITSUKI, TAKI.

MIR-
ROR
RICE
CAKES
!
KYA
AAA
HAHA
HA...

BA-DA-DUM-DUM-DUM...
CLOP
CLOP
NEW
SPRING
AND
NOW FOR
MY NEXT
TRICK,
THE LION
DANCE!

Yatsugatake West Peak,
Nagano Prefecture

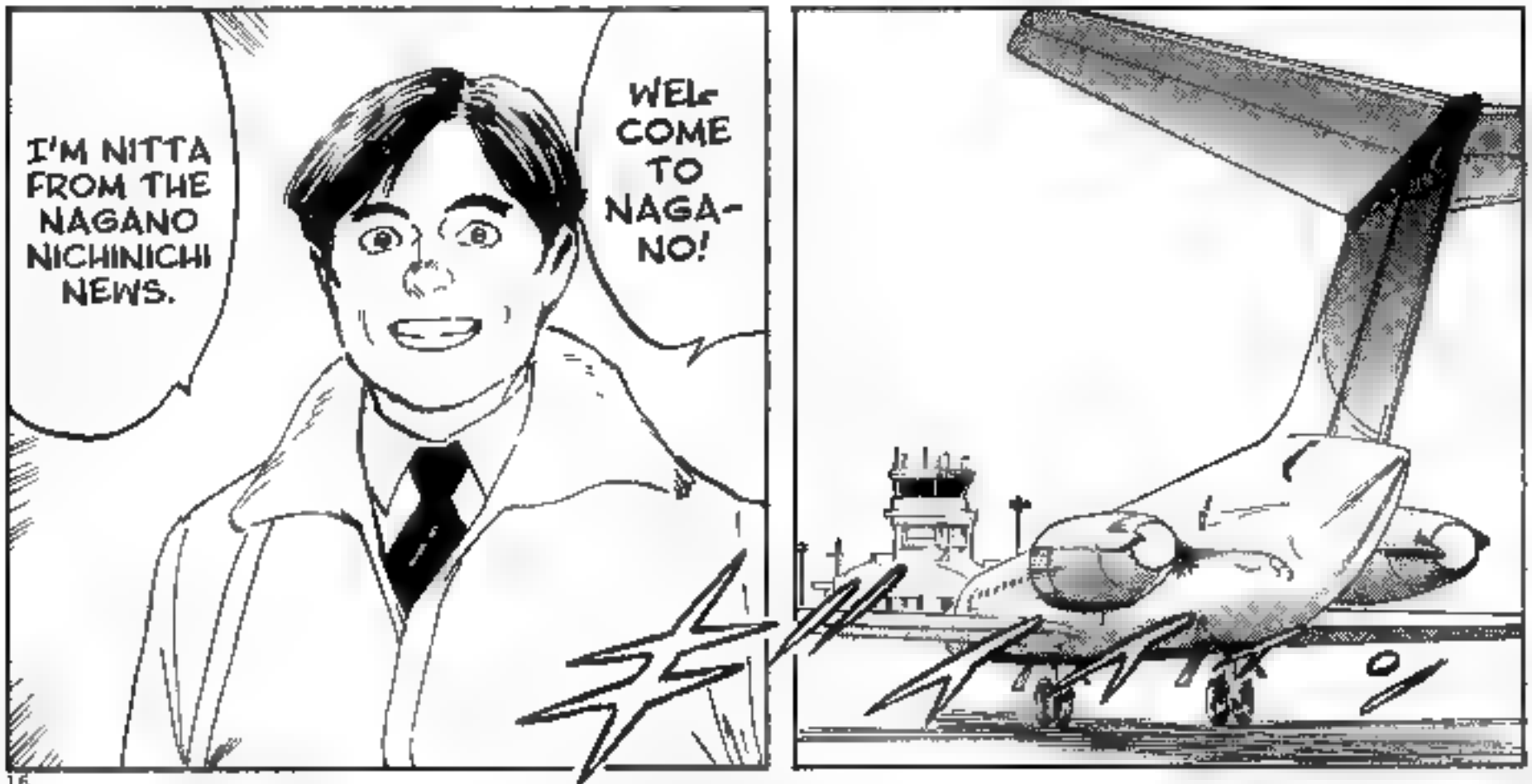
EEP ...

HEHEHE... I DRANK TOO MUCH, SO I NEED TO PISS.

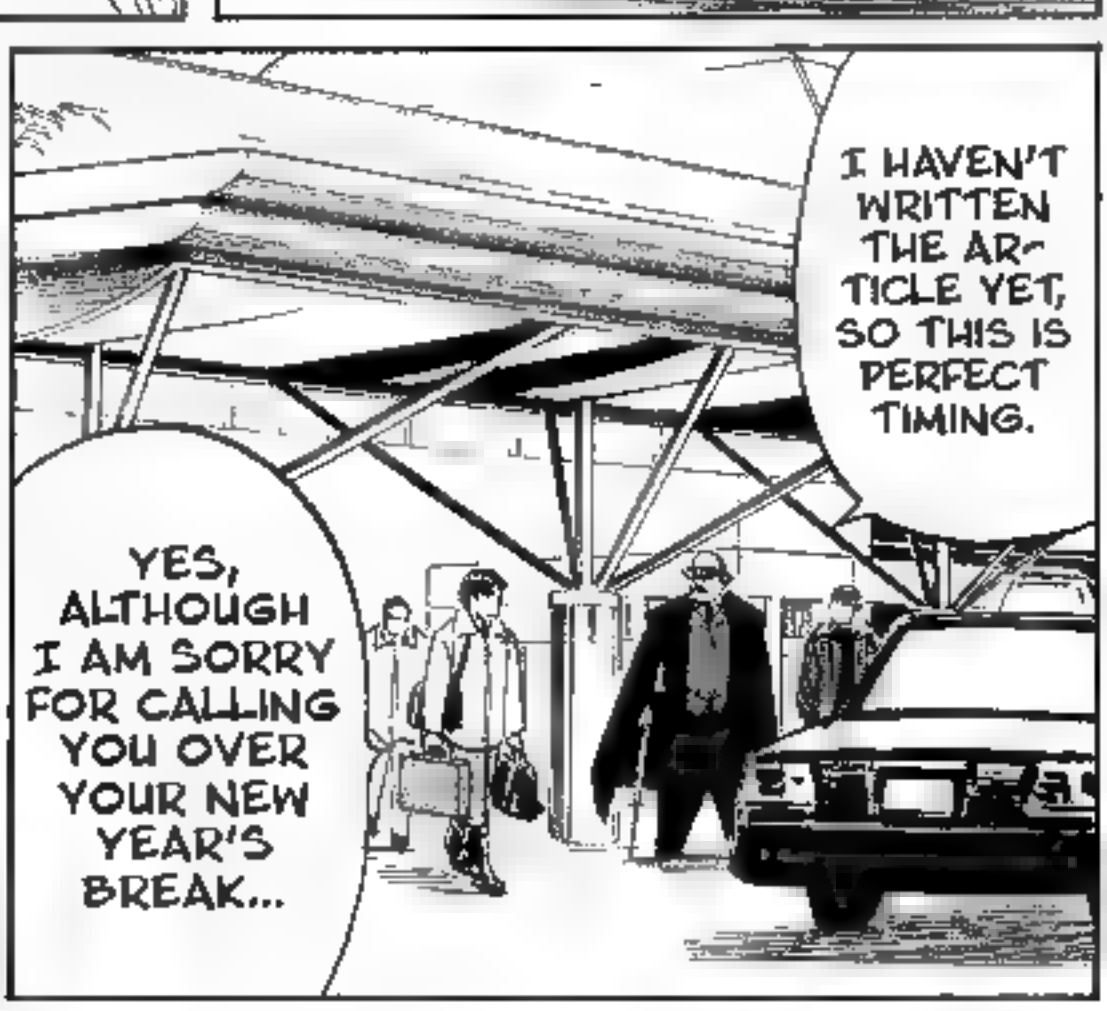
MR. DEPUTY MAYOR ...?

MR. DEPUTY MAYOR !?

……


I'M NITTA FROM THE NAGANO NICHINICHI NEWS.
WELCOME TO NAGA-NO!

IF IT'S TRUE THAT THEY FOUND A MASK, THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WRITE ABOUT IT.

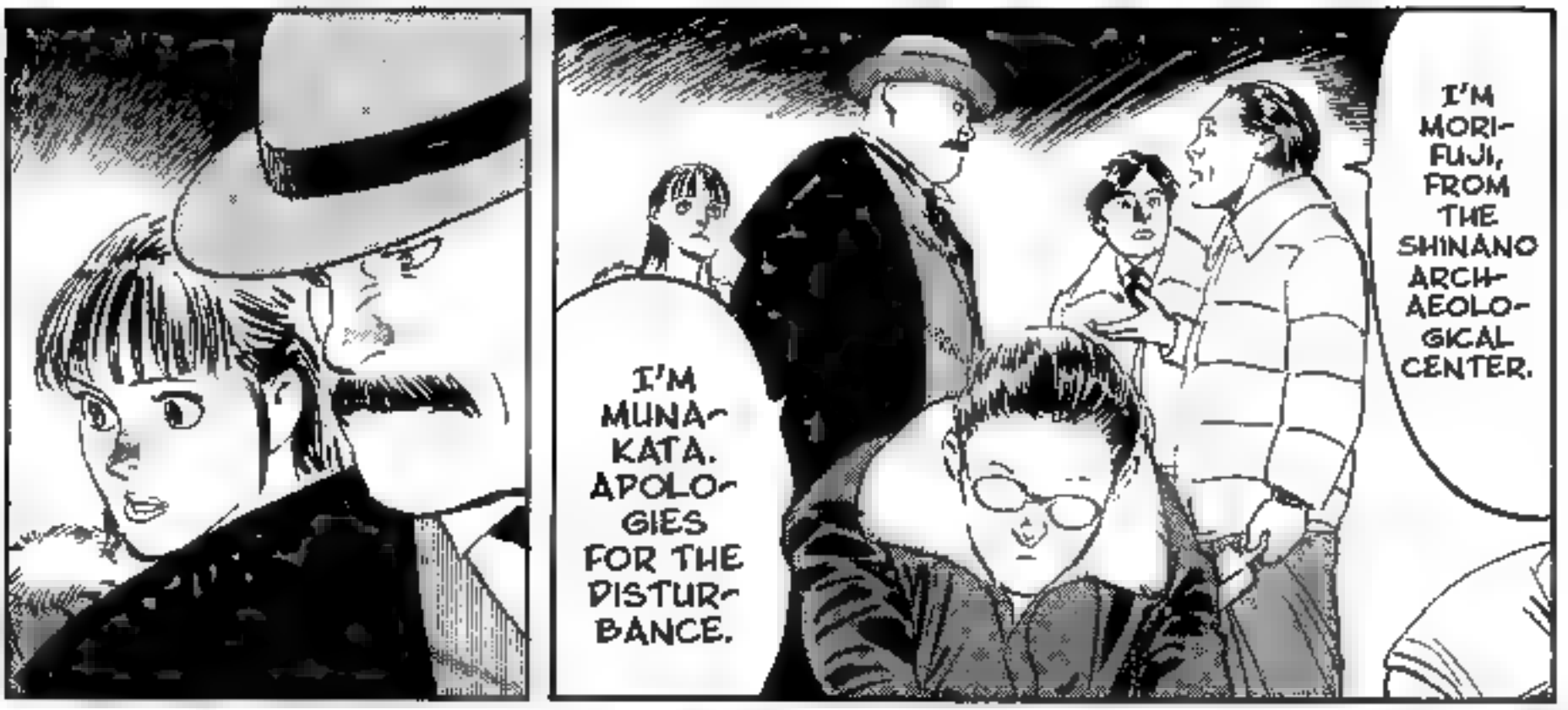

I HAVEN'T WRITTEN THE AR-TICLE YET, SO THIS IS PERFECT TIMING.
YES, ALTHOUGH I AM SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OVER YOUR NEW YEAR'S BREAK...

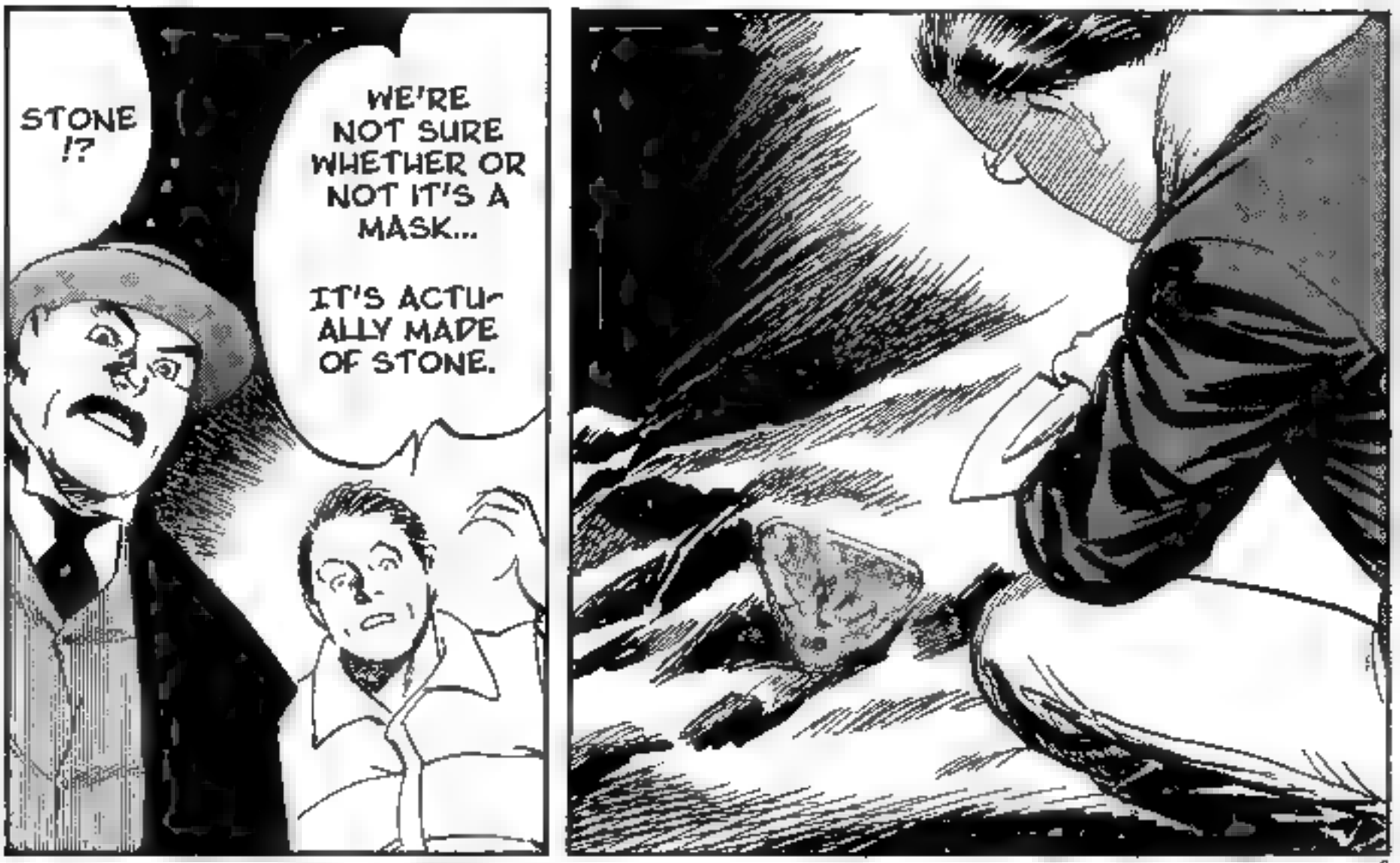
IT'S SHAPED LIKE A TRIANGLE, MUCH LIKE THE "MASKED GODDESS". WE'RE STILL EXCAVATING IT, SO WE NEED YOU TO COME TO THE SITE.

I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT SOMETHING'S TURNED UP THERE.

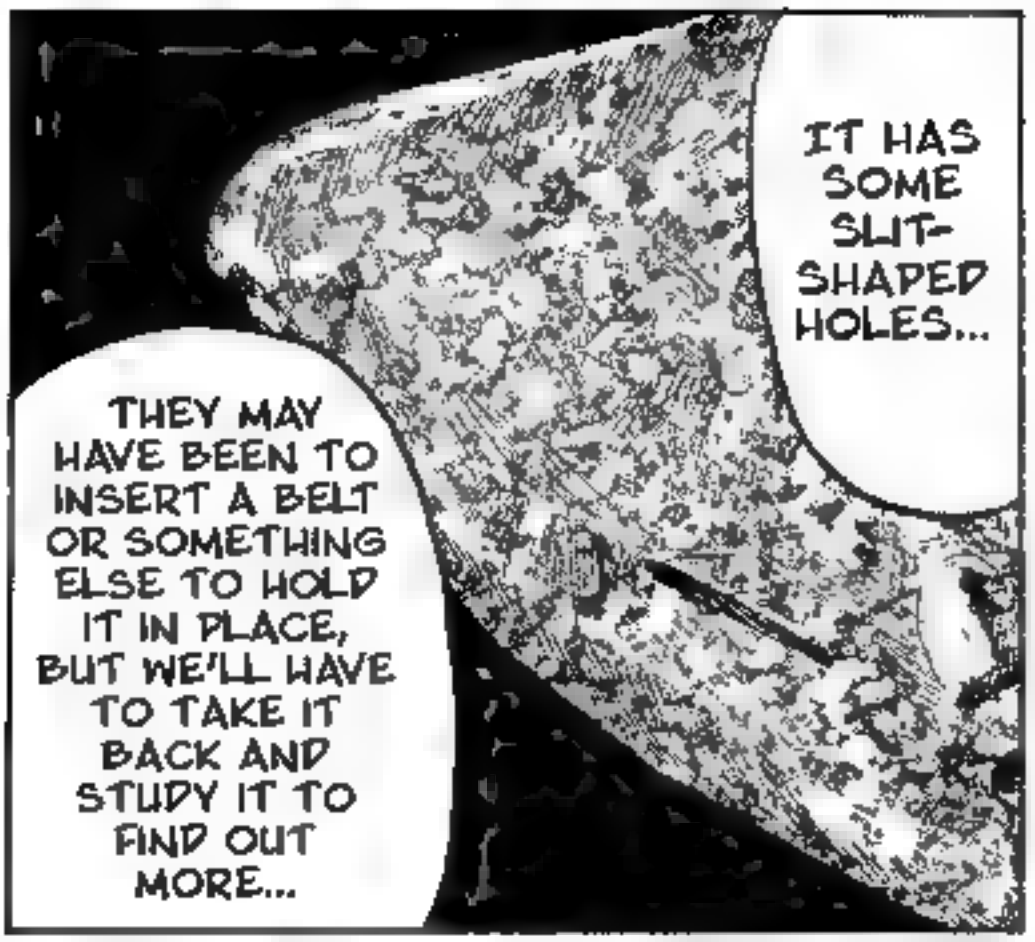
THE YATSUGATAKE AREA IS A TREASURE VAULT FOR JOMON RUINS, FROM "TOGARISHI" TO "IDOJIRI".

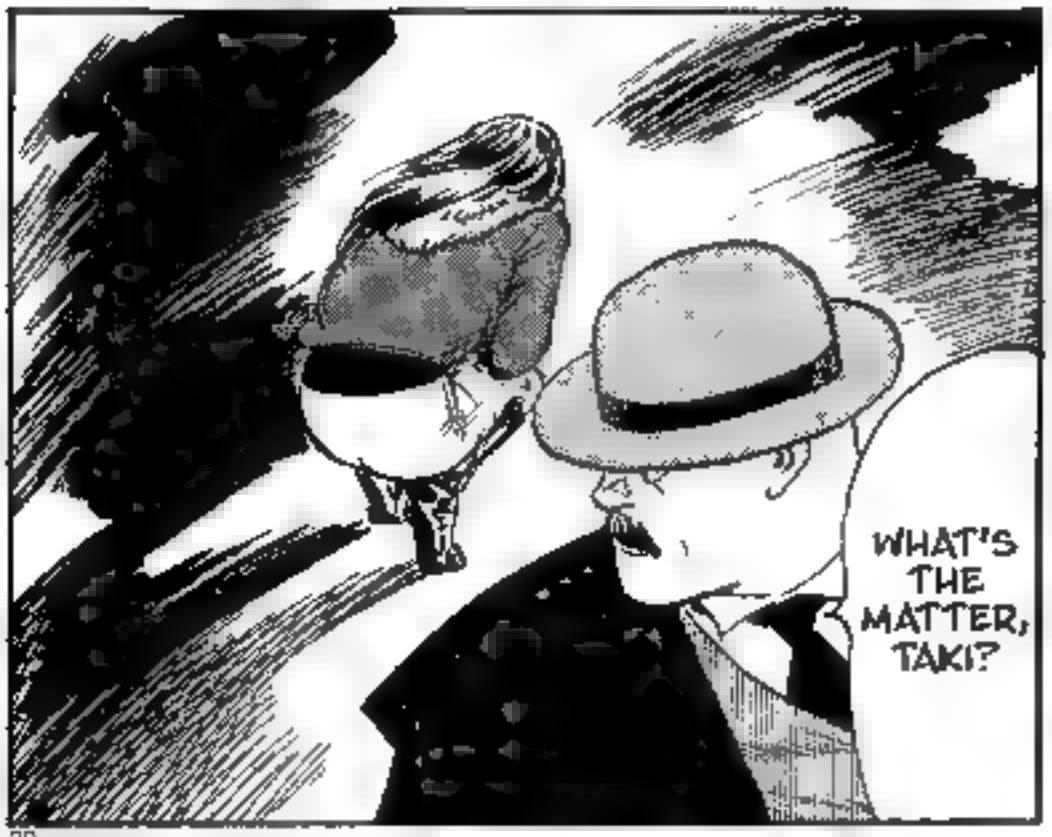
THIS SITE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A JOMON-PERIOD CAVE RUIN...


I'M MORI-FUJI, FROM THE SHINANO ARCH-AEOLO-GICAL CENTER.
I'M MUNA-KATA. APOLO-GIES FOR THE DISTUR-BANCE.


STONE !?
WE'RE NOT SURE WHETHER OR NOT IT'S A MASK...
IT'S ACTU-ALLY MADE OF STONE.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD CALL IT A "STONE MASK", BUT IT'S MORE LIKE A TRIANGULAR STONE SLAB WITH NO EYEHOLES.
IT'S FAIRLY HEAVY, AND I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WORN.


IT HAS SOME SLIT-SHAPED HOLES...
THEY MAY HAVE BEEN TO INSERT A BELT OR SOMETHING ELSE TO HOLD IT IN PLACE, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT BACK AND STUDY IT TO FIND OUT MORE...


WHAT'S THE MATTER, TAKI?

.....

20

YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF YOU GET SOME OUTSIDE AIR.
ARE YOU AL-RIGHT ?

WHAT'S IN HERE?

.....

WE ALSO HAVE THE EXCAVA-TION BUDGET TO CONSIDER, SO WE MAY CLOSE THIS OFF FOR A WHILE...

PLEASE BE CAREFUL. IT LOOKS LIKE IT GOES QUITE A LONG WAY, BUT THERE'S A RISK OF A CAVE-IN.

HUH?

THIS IS ALMOST LIKE...

OH, NOTHING... BUT I WONDER HOW FAR THIS DARKNESS GOES...

I EVEN FOUND IT HARD TO BREATHE...

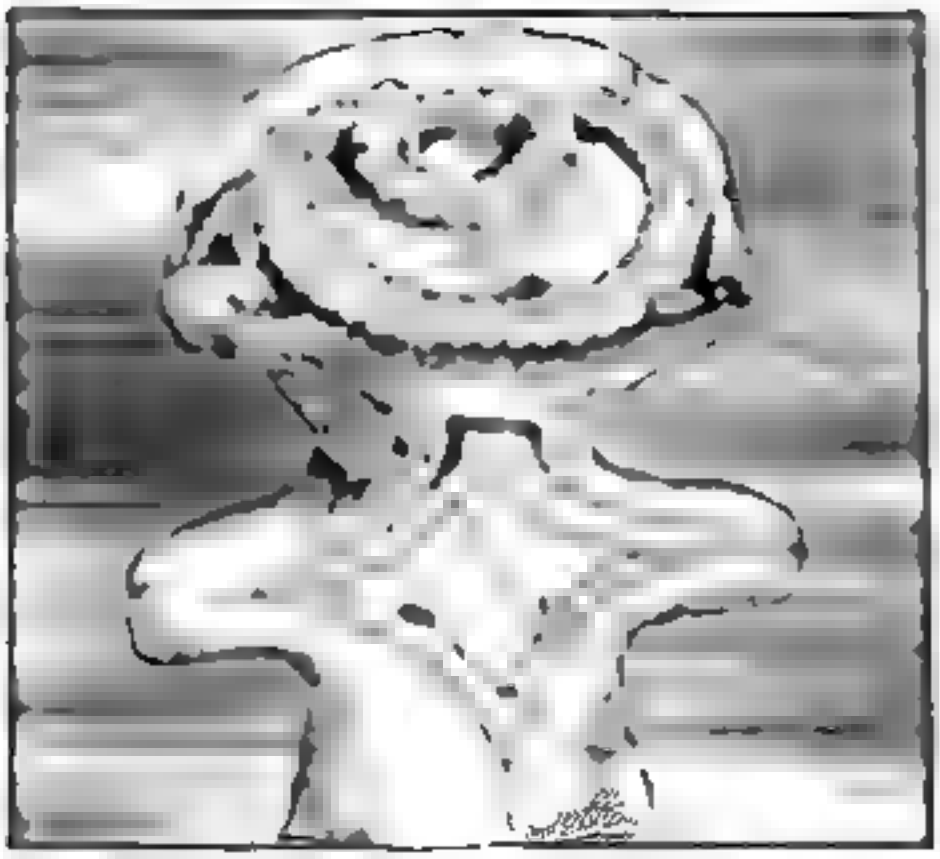
WHEN I SAW THAT MASK, I FELT A PAIN IN MY CHEST.

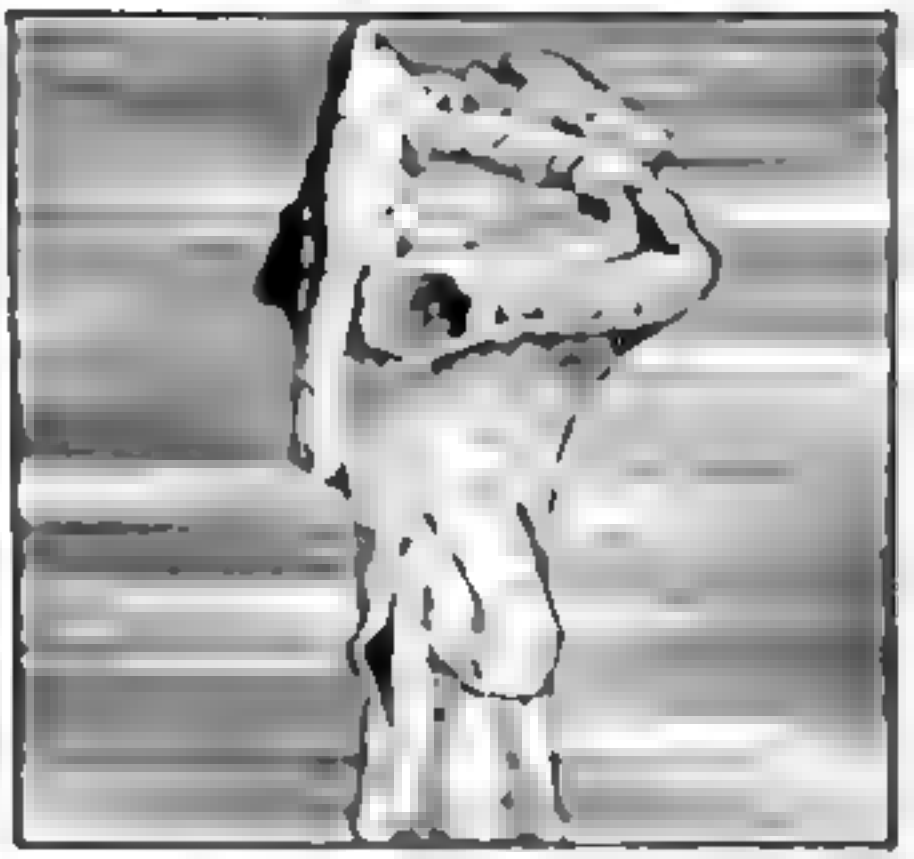
IF I RECALL, THERE'S A PLACE CALLED FUJIUCHI NEARBY, WHERE THEY EXCAVATED A "SNAKE MAIDEN" EARTHEN FIGURE...

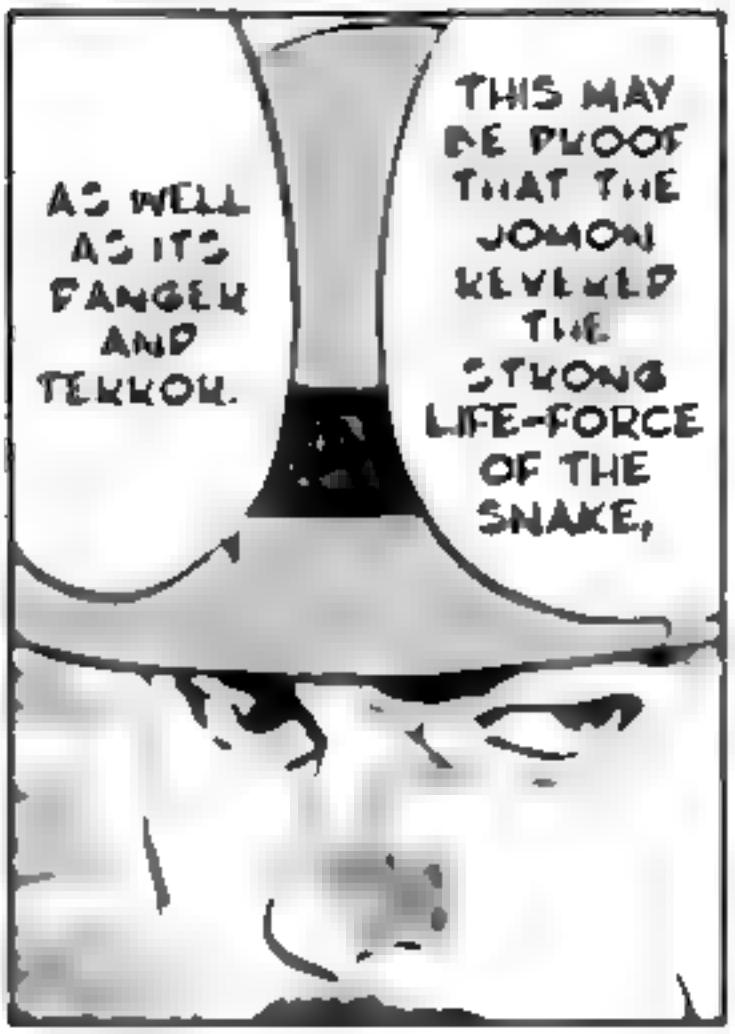
.....

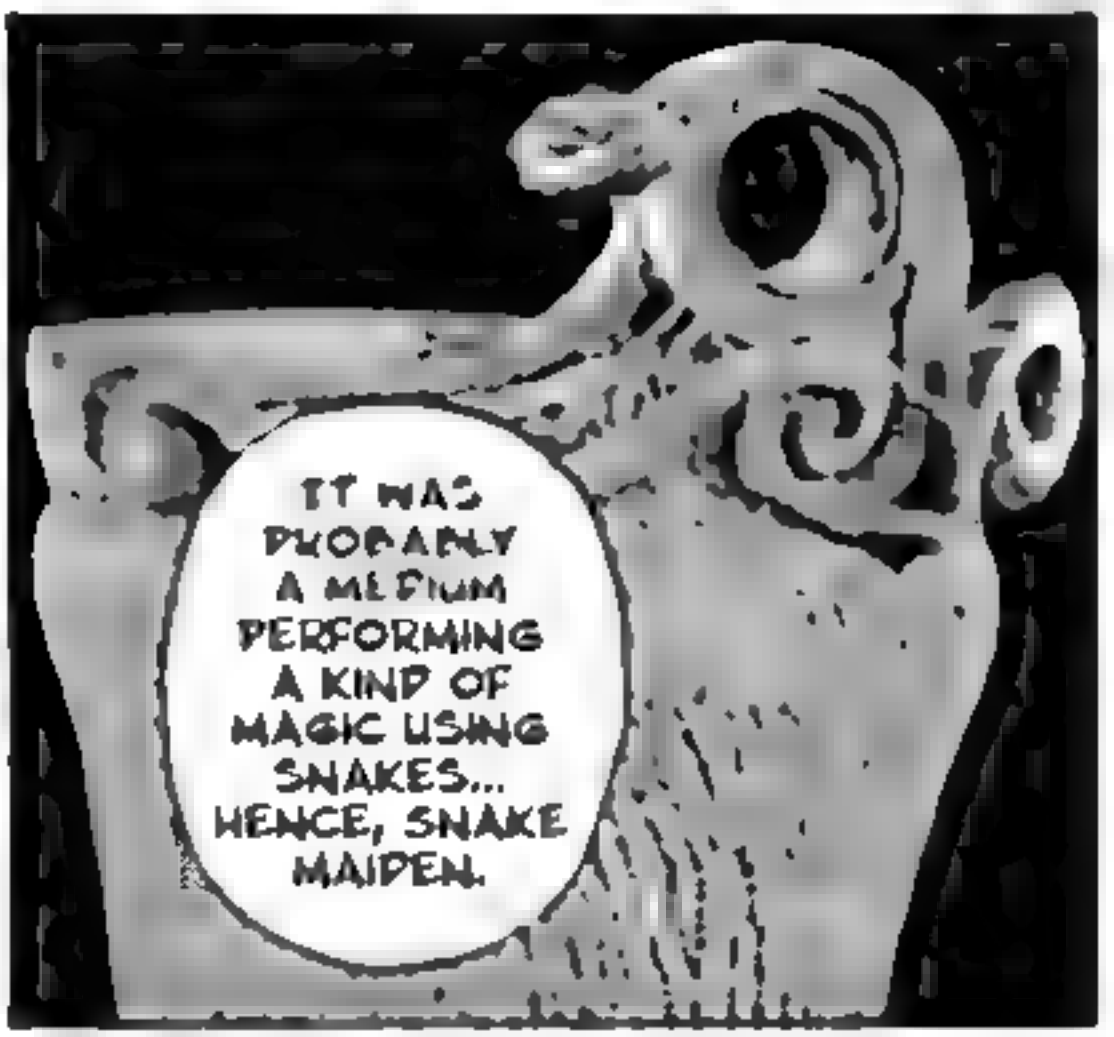
YOU COULD CALL IT A MA'DED EARTHEN FIGURE BASED ON YOUR PERSPECTIVE. IT'S A FEMALE FIGURE WITH SOMETHING THAT APPEARS TO BE A SNAKE ON THE BACK OF ITS HEAD

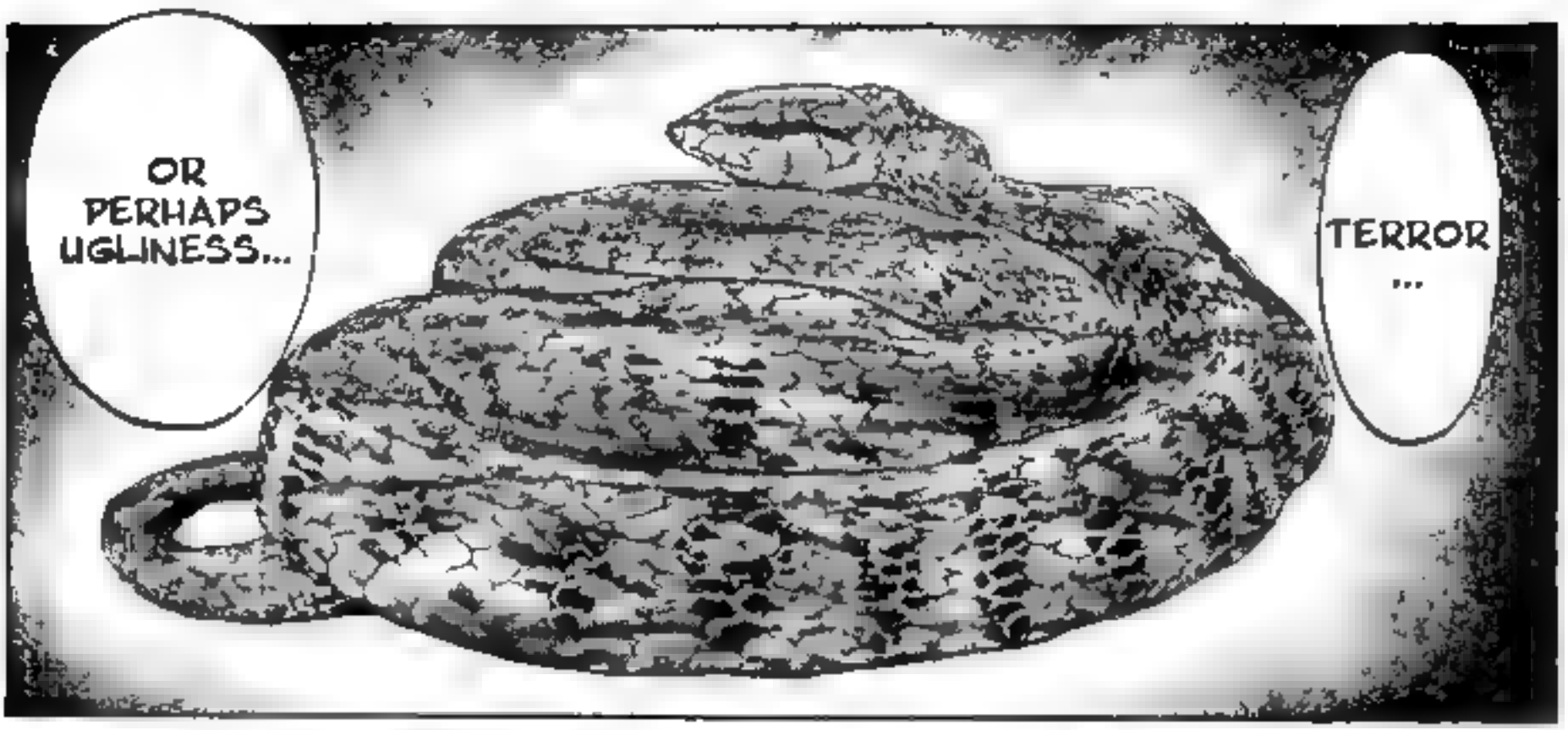
I KNOW ABOUT FUJIUCHI, BUT... SNAKE MAIDEN?






AS WELL AS ITS FANGS AND TEKKOU.
THIS MAY BE PROOF THAT THE JOMON REVERED THE STRONG LIFE-FORCE OF THE SNAKE.


IT WAS PROBABLY A MEDIUM PERFORMING A KIND OF MAGIC USING SNAKES... HENCE, SNAKE MAIDEN.


OR PERHAPS UGLINESS...
TERROR ...

were still

They tried to alleviate this danger by worshipping the "earth goddess", the goddess that ruled the natural world, performing magic and offering sacrifices.

But as mankind began to dominate the natural world in the name of civilization, the significance of the Medusa faded, until eventually they had become monsters that were defeated by heroes

This goddess was called "Neith" in Africa, while in Greece she was known as "Athena" ..

or "Medusa"

The Cavern of Hades

They were the Gorgon sisters, who had snakes for hair, and those who saw their ugly faces would turn to stone and die from the terror

This is where Medusa and her sisters lived

While her sisters were immortal, Medusa alone was mortal, and the hero Perseus was able to take off her head

He was pursued by her enraged sisters, but Perseus, having fulfilled his mission, barely escaped.

Kayano City,
Nagano Prefecture
Togari-ishi Jomon
Archaeological Museum

BECAUSE IT WAS A SCARY AND MEMO-RABLE STORY?

THOUGH SHE WAS DEGRADED TO A MONSTER SLAIN BY A HERO, THE MYTH OF MEDUSA ITSELF WAS NOT FORGOTTEN... DO YOU KNOW WHY, TAKI?

ALL PEOPLE MUST DIE EVENTUALLY. THE LAST ASPECT OF NATURE THAT MAN HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CONQUER, WHETHER GREEK OR MODERN MAN, IS "DEATH".

MEDUSA, WHO LIVED IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD AND TURNED THOSE WHO SAW IT TO STONE, REPRESENTED "DEATH" ITSELF.

SHE CREATED THE JAPANESE ARCHIPELAGO WITH HER HUSBAND IZANAGI, AND GAVE BIRTH TO ALL THINGS IN IT. SHE WAS LITERALLY THE EARTH MOTHER.

THE CLOSEST FIGURE TO MEDUSA IN JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY MAY VERY WELL HAVE BEEN IZANAMI.

STRICKEN WITH GRIEF, IZANAGI ENTERED YOMI, THE LAND OF THE DEAD, TO RETRIEVE HIS WIFE.

BUT BECAUSE THE LAST THING SHE GAVE BIRTH TO WAS THE GOD OF FIRE, IZANAMI BURNED TO DEATH.

While they were reunited, he broke his vow not to look upon her, and therefore Izanagi saw

Filled with rage upon being seen in such an unsightly state, Izanami sent the she devils of the Land of Yomi upon him

These were the "Hags of Yomi"

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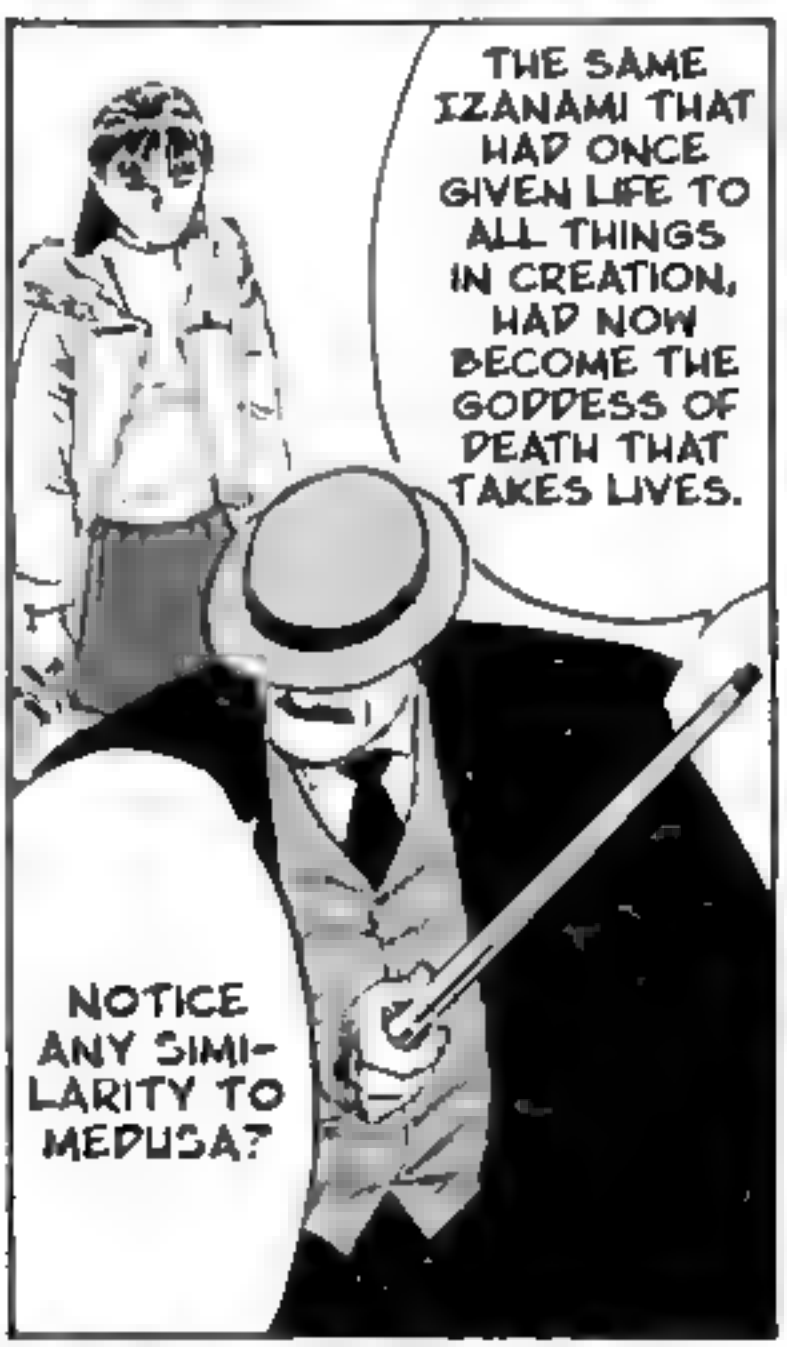
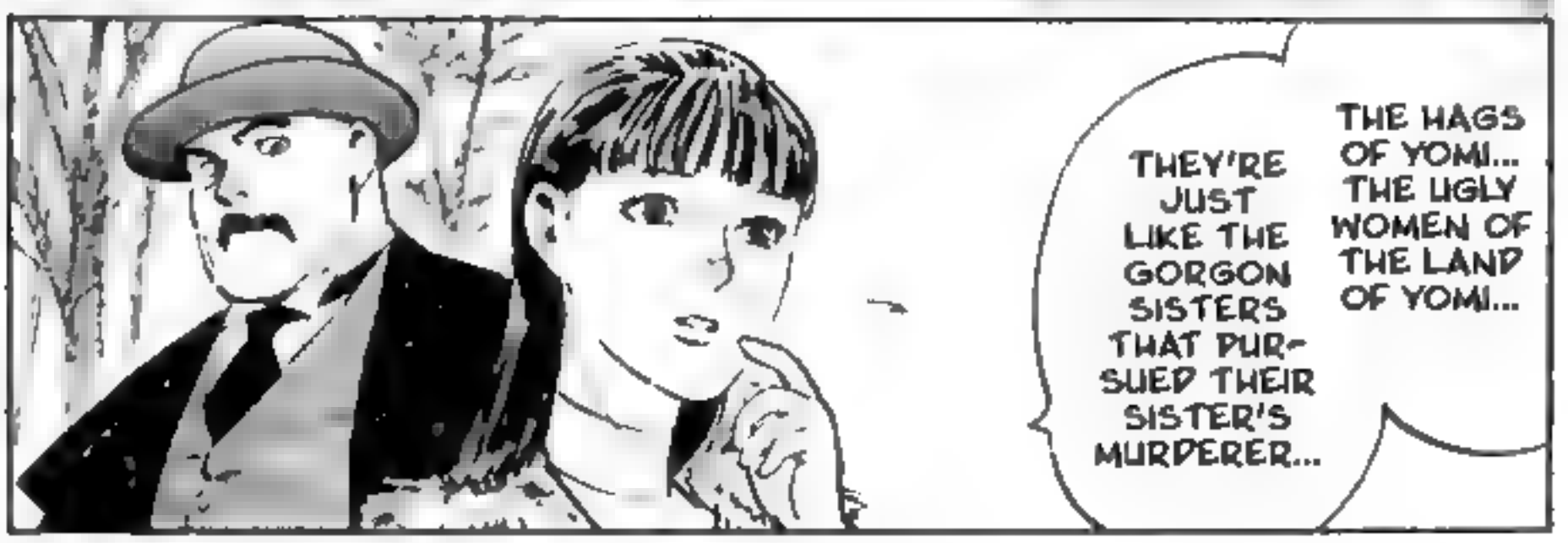
When he had sealed the border to this world with a boulder called the "Chibiki Stone", the former divine spouses were completely separated.


THE SAME IZANAMI THAT HAD ONCE GIVEN LIFE TO ALL THINGS IN CREATION, HAD NOW BECOME THE GODDESS OF DEATH THAT TAKES LIVES.
NOTICE ANY SIMI-LARITY TO MEDUSA?

"Heed my words! From this day forth, as goddess of Yomi, I shall slay a thous and humans every day!!"


THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE GORGON SISTERS THAT PUR-SUED THEIR SISTER'S MURDERER...
THE HAGS OF YOMI... THE UGLY WOMEN OF THE LAND OF YOMI...

HMM... YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

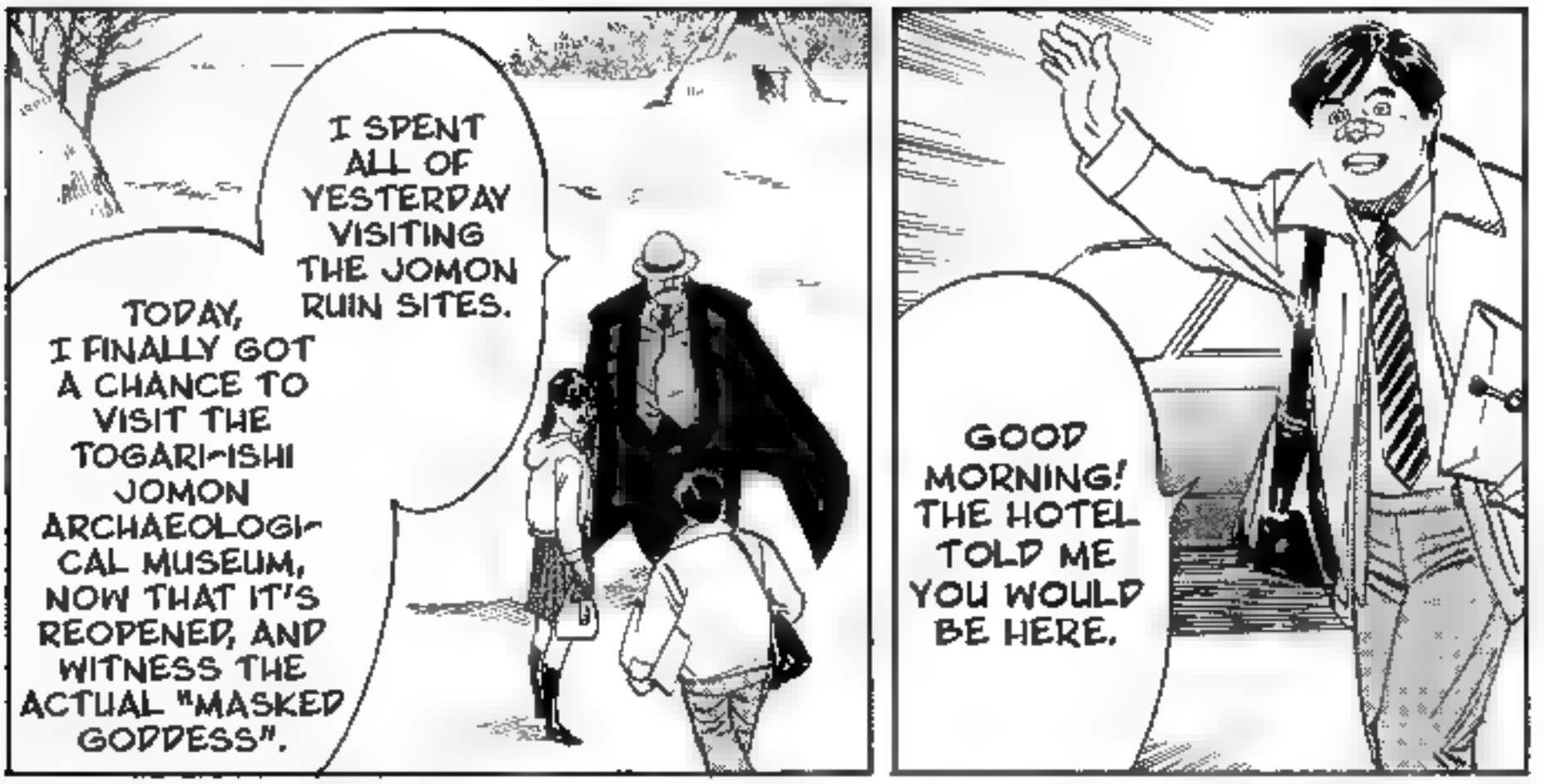
THEY DO SAY THAT THE MYTH OF THE LAND OF YOMI IS SIMILAR TO THE MYTH OF ORPHEUS, WHO DESCENDS TO HADES IN PURSUIT OF HIS DEAD LOVER...

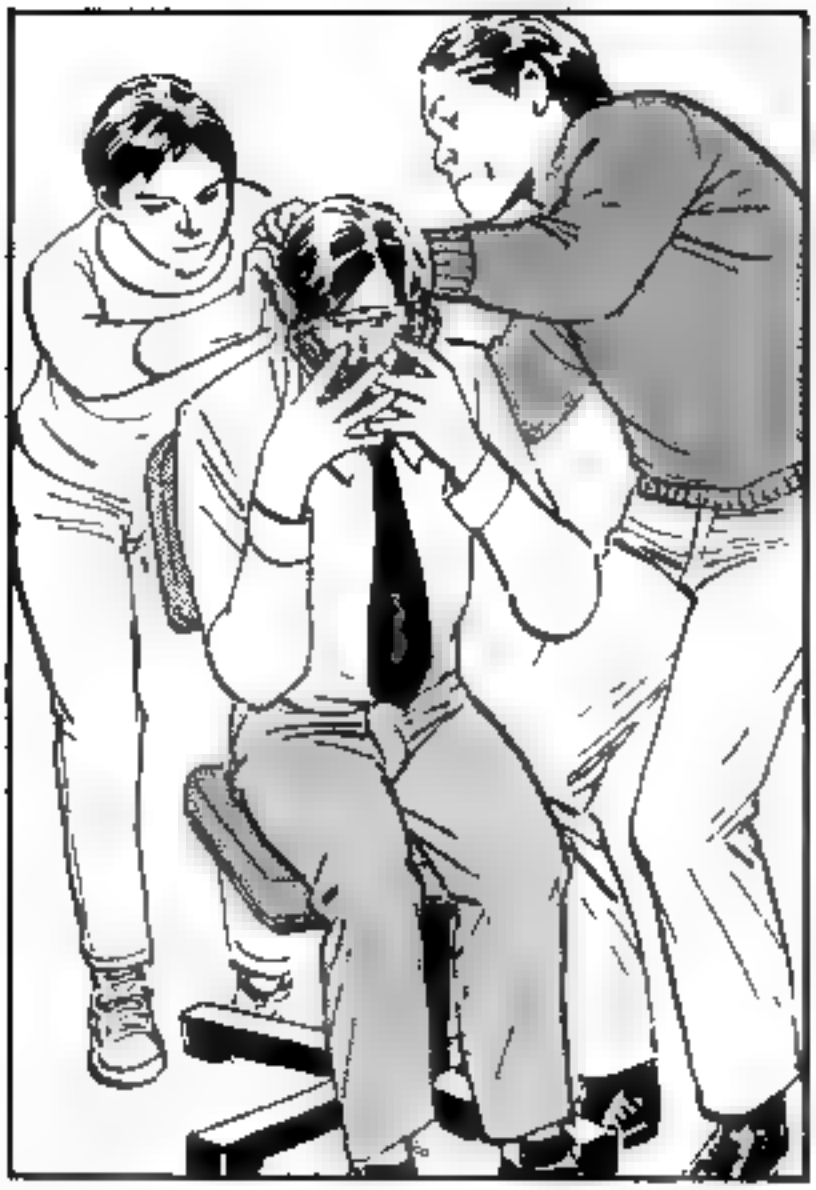
WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE ANY CONNECTIONS TO GREEK MYTHOLOGY,

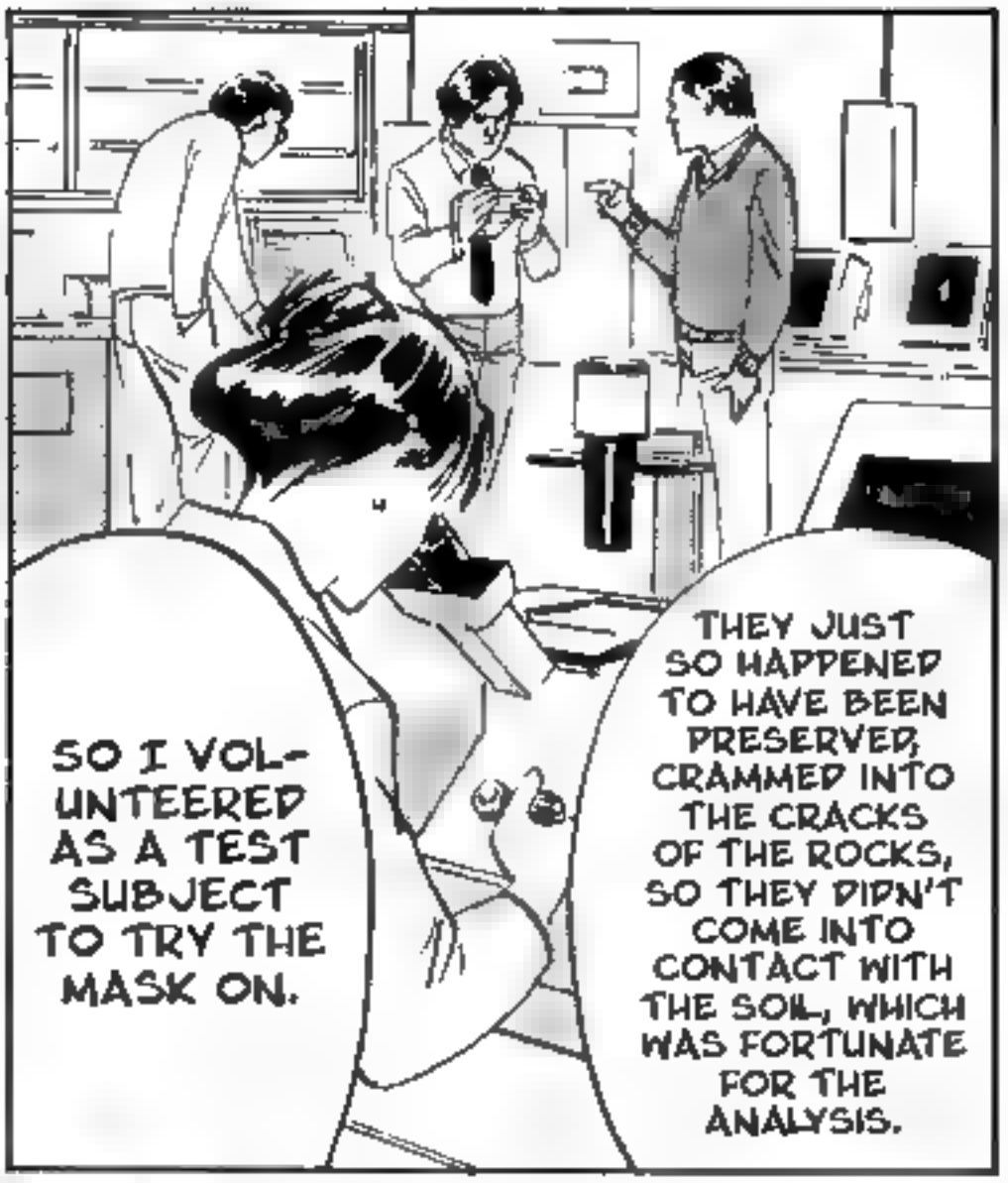
THE FEMALE EARTHEN FIGURES WITH SNAKES ON THEIR HEAD AND THE MASKED EARTHEN FIGURES MAY REPRESENT THE FACT THAT THE ANCIENT JAPANESE WORSHIPPED A GODDESS SIMILAR TO MEDUSA.

EITHER THAT, OR THERE WERE MEDIUMS THAT SERVED SUCH GODDESSES...

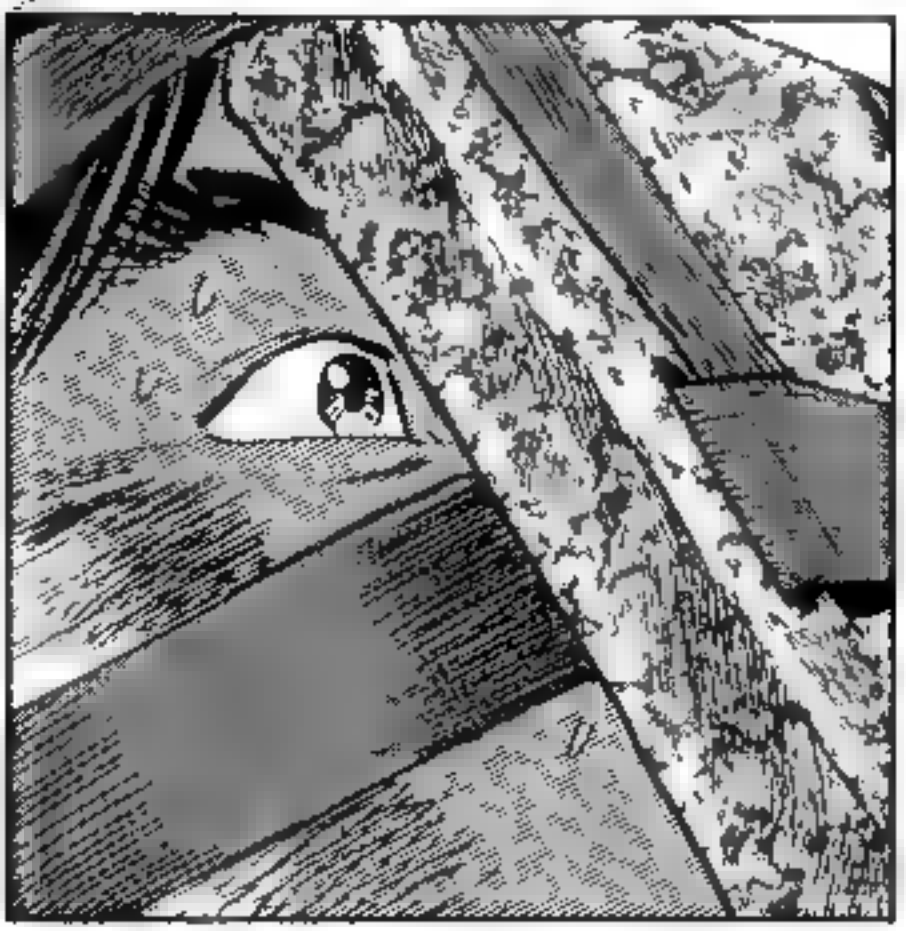
LIKE THE HAGS OF YOMI THAT SERVED IZANAMI...


I SPENT ALL OF YESTERDAY VISITING THE JOMON RUIN SITES.
TODAY, I FINALLY GOT A CHANCE TO VISIT THE TOGARI-ISHI JOMON ARCHAEOLOGI-CAL MUSEUM, NOW THAT IT'S REOPENED, AND WITNESS THE ACTUAL "MASKED GODDESS".
GOOD MORNING! THE HOTEL TOLD ME YOU WOULD BE HERE.
TAHAHA, I WAS ACTUALLY REPORTING ON THE ANALYSIS OF THE "STONE MASK" IN THE SHINANO AR-CHAEOLOGICAL CENTER.
MR. NITTA, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR NOSE?
OH...
THEY DETECTED ORGANIC MATTER ON THE BACK OF THE MASK. IT APPEARS IT WAS, IN FACT, WORN ON THE FACE.



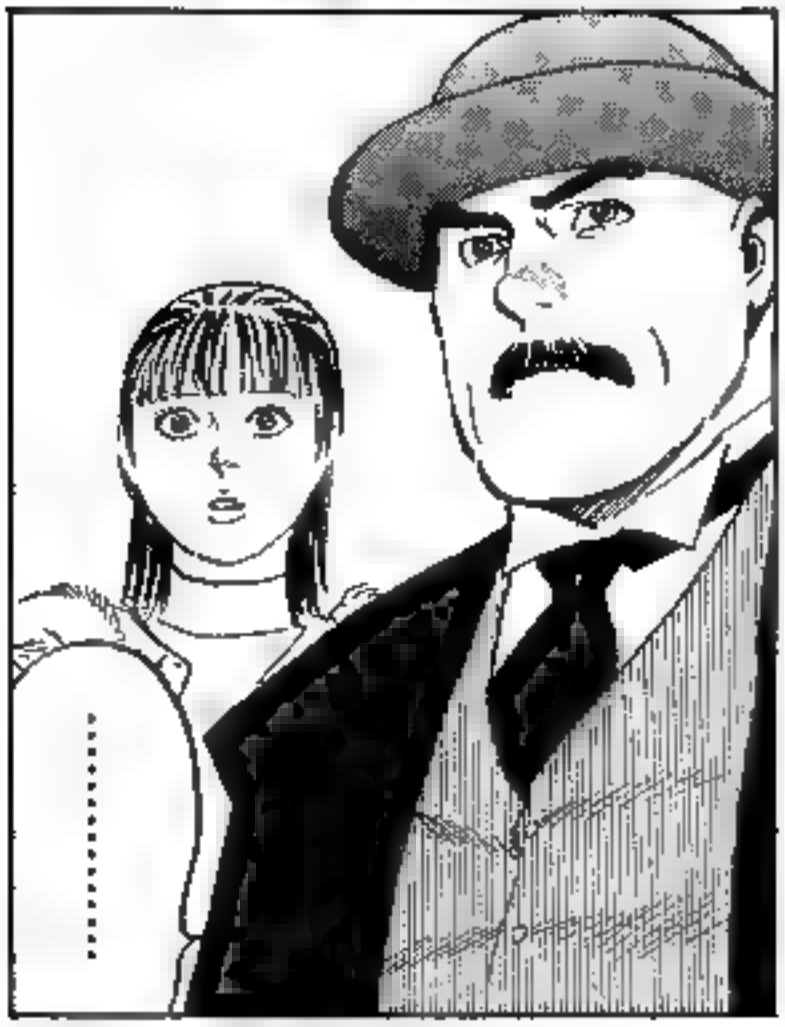

SO I VOLUNTEERED AS A TEST SUBJECT TO TRY THE MASK ON.
THEY JUST SO HAPPENED TO HAVE BEEN PRESERVED, CRAMMED INTO THE CRACKS OF THE ROCKS, SO THEY DIDN'T COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE SOIL, WHICH WAS FORTUNATE FOR THE ANALYSIS.

IT WAS AWFUL. THE STONE WAS SO HEAVY, AND THE BUMPS AND GROOVES OF MY FACE MADE THE MASK UNSTABLE, SO THEY HAD TO TIE IT ON TIGHTLY WITH A LEATHER BELT...



THE STIFFNESS AND COLDNESS OF THE STONE, AND THE SENSE OF PRESSURE THAT MADE MY VISION GO DARK, ALL HIT ME AT ONCE.

HURRY !!
T... TAKE IT OFF!!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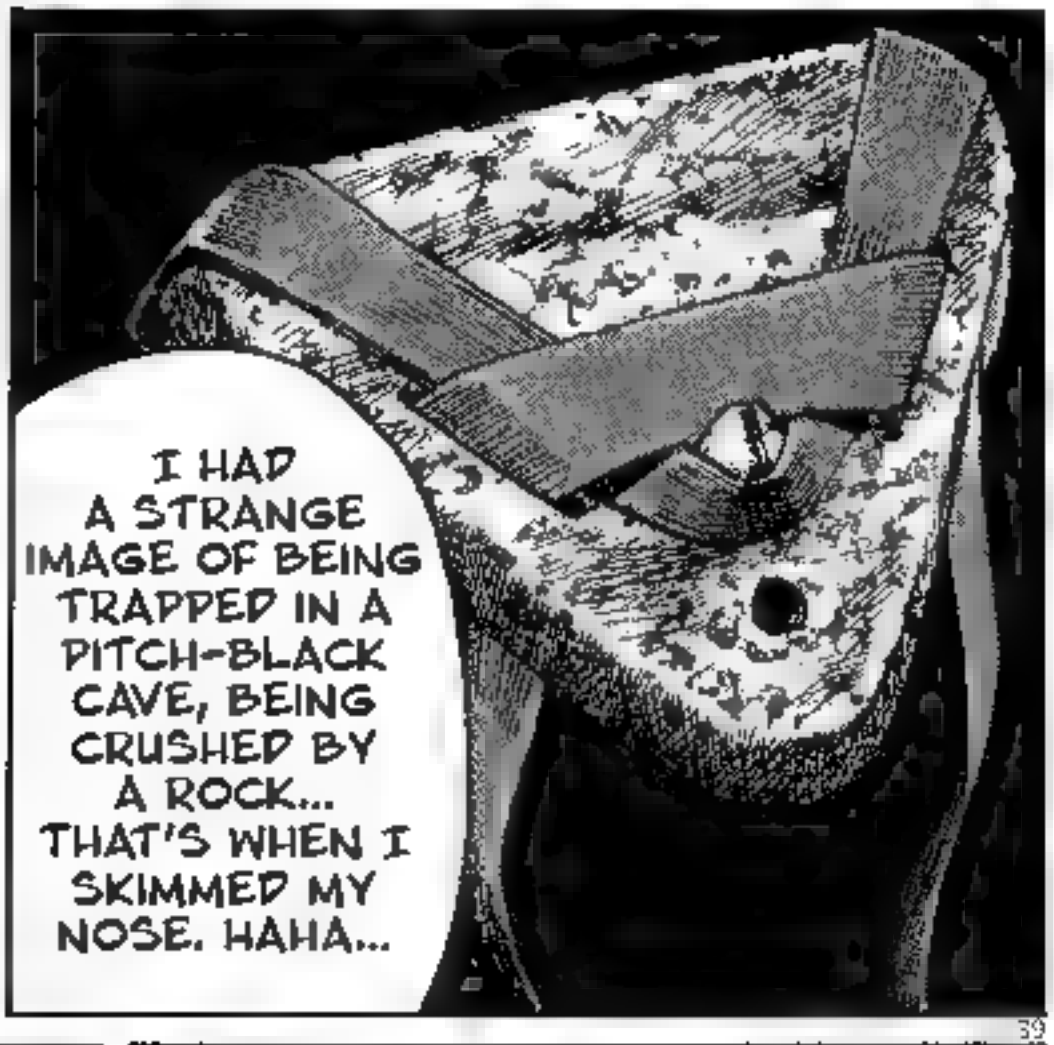

I HAD A STRANGE IMAGE OF BEING TRAPPED IN A PITCH-BLACK CAVE, BEING CRUSHED BY A ROCK... THAT'S WHEN I SKIMMED MY NOSE. HAHA...

IF I'D FORCED IT ON, IT WOULD'VE CRUSHED MY FACE TO A BLOODY PULP
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THAT WAS A MASK. I COULDN'T SECURE IT ONTO MY FACE...

THE THINGS THAT YOU AND TAKI SENSED ABOUT THAT STONE MASK MAY SPEAK TO A MILLENNIA-OLD TRUTH.

THE GREATEST HISTORIANS ARE ABLE TO STAND IN AN EMPTY FIELD OF GRASS, AND PERCEIVE SIGNS THAT MANY PEOPLE ONCE LIVED THERE.

THIS MASK ALMOST LOOKS LIKE A TRIANGULAR SLAB. IT'S STUCK RIGHT ONTO THE FACE. I BET THAT WOULD MAKE IT HARD TO BREATHE.

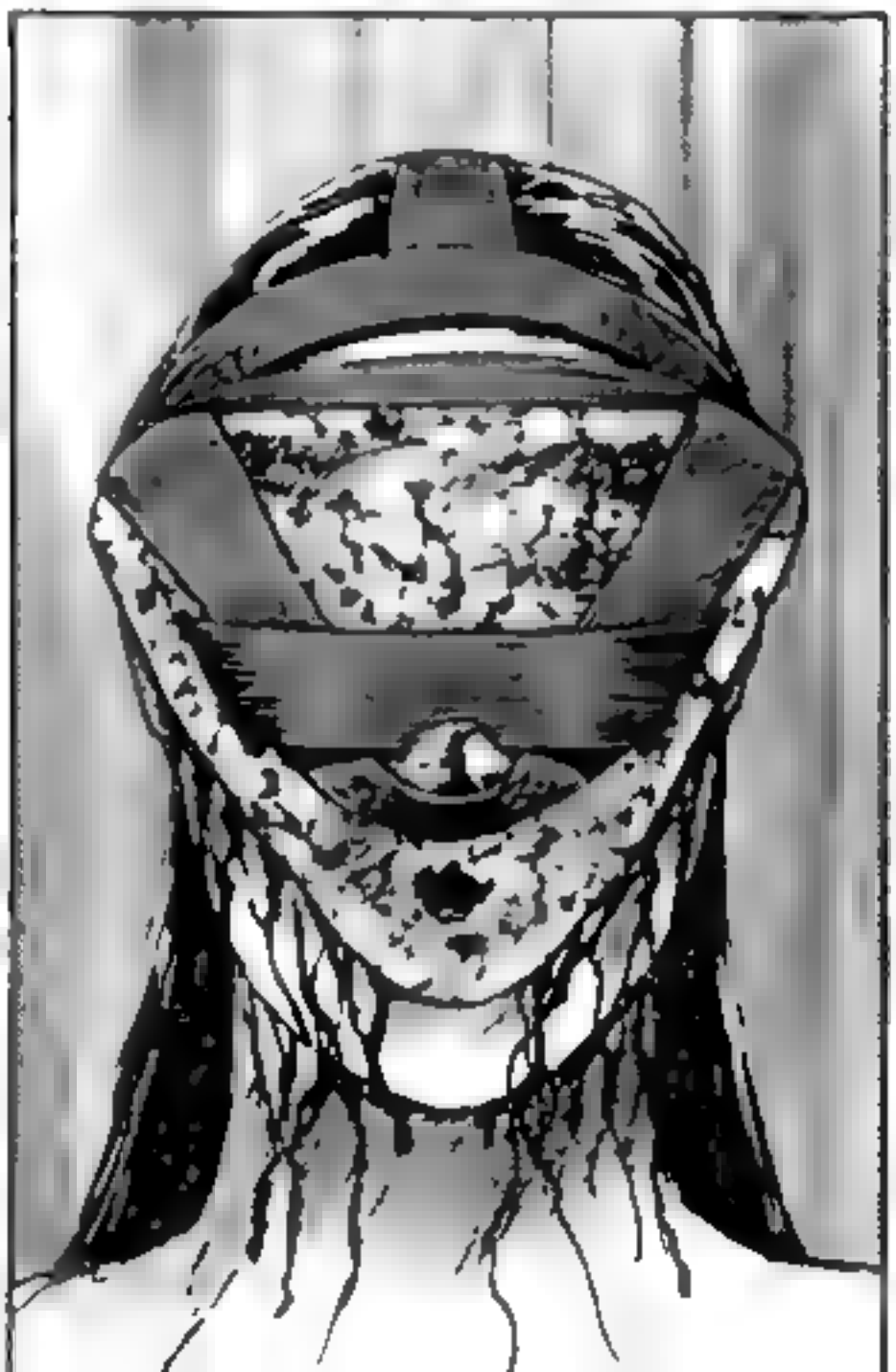
IF MY FACE WAS DISFIGURED, I MAY HAVE COVERED IT WITH A MASK...

IZANAMI AND THE HAGS OF YOMI

THEY COULD OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR EXTREME [illegible]

KONOHANA SAKUYA-HIME AND IWANAGA-HIME

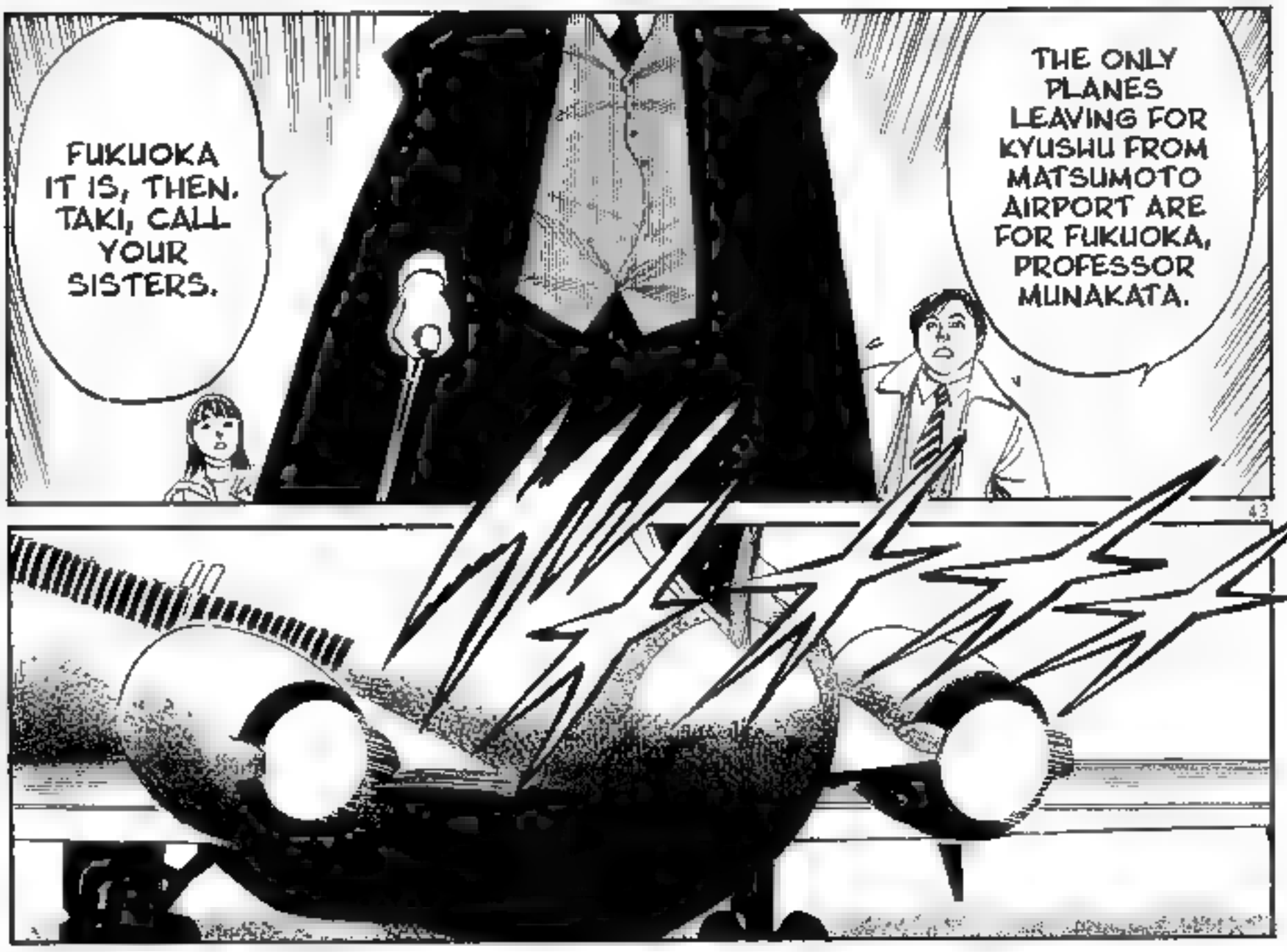
I WONDER HOW FAR THIS DARKNESS GOES



WEREN'T WE GOING BACK TO TOKYO?

I'VE JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING... WE'RE GOING TO KUMAMOTO!

WE'RE HEADING BACK TO KYUSHU, TAKI!


FUKUOKA IT IS, THEN. TAKI, CALL YOUR SISTERS.
THE ONLY PLANES LEAVING FOR KYUSHU FROM MATSUMOTO AIRPORT ARE FOR FUKUOKA, PROFESSOR MUNAKATA.
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SIGN: FUKUOKA AIRPORT

福岡空港

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SORRY ABOUT THE SHORT NOTICE. IS EVERY-THING UNDER CONTROL AT THE SHRINE?

NOW THAT THE THIRD'S COME AND GONE, IT'S PRETTY MUCH THE OFF-SEASON. HEHEHE. GO ON, GET IN.

KIKUSUI, KUMAMOTO?
I HEAR THAT IT'S COMBINED WITH ANOTHER TOWN AND GOES BY A DIFFERENT NAME NOW.

HMM...

SO, WHAT'S THERE?
GOT IT. IT'S IN PERFECT DRIVING DISTANCE FROM HERE.

THE "ORNAMENTED BURIAL MOUNDS" IN PARTICULAR ARE FAMOUS FOR THEIR WALL PAINTINGS AND ENGRAVINGS. TAKEHARA BURIAL MOUND, HINOOKA BURIAL MOUND, CHIBUSAN BURIAL MOUND...
THE AREA FROM FUKUOKA TO KUMAMOTO IS HOME TO BURIAL MOUNDS AND TUNNEL TOMBS THAT ARE UNIQUE TO KYUSHU.

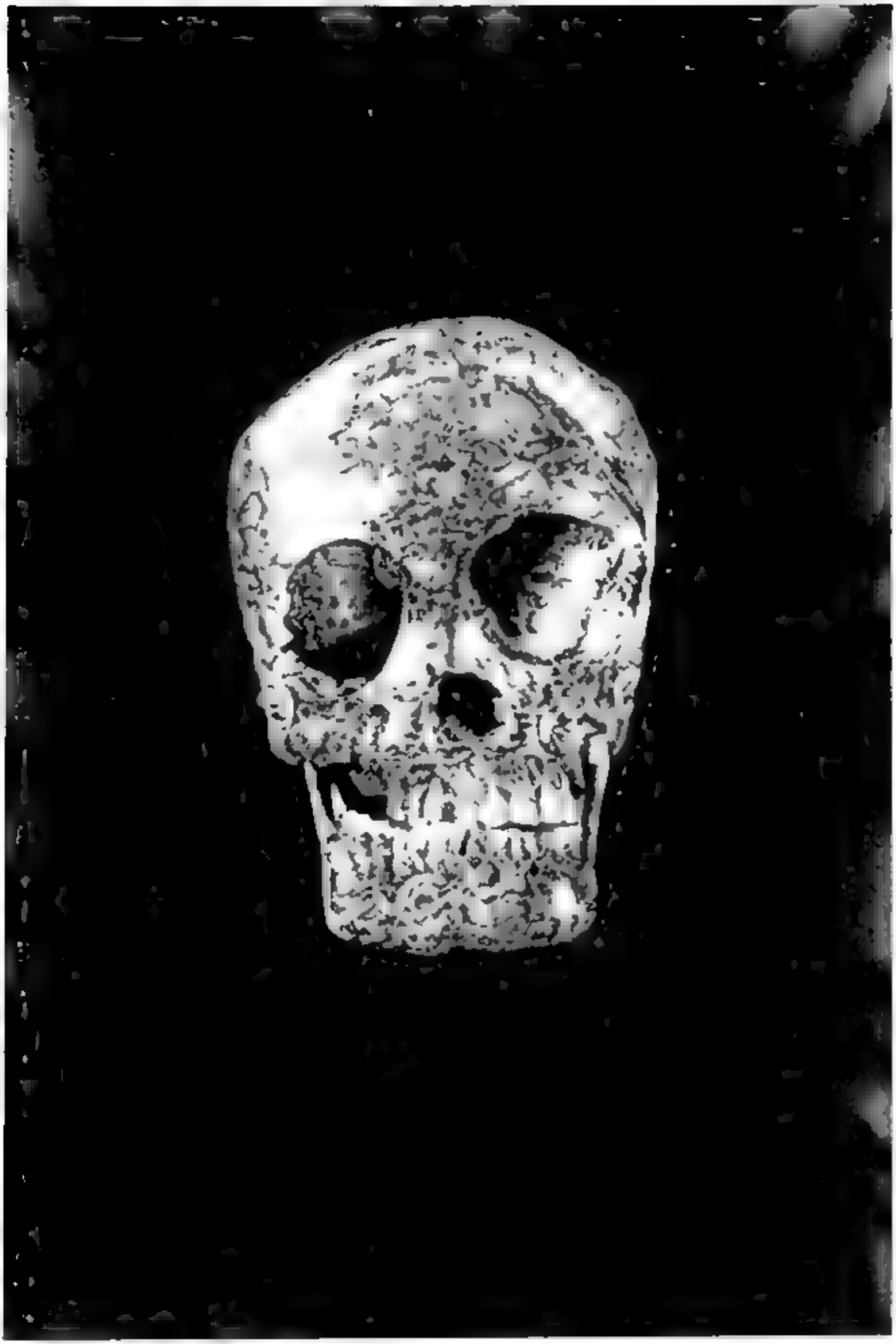
THEIR ENTRANCES HAVE ENGRAVINGS OF BOWS AND ARROWS, SHIELDS, AND SWORDS, VARIOUS WEAPONRY, IN OTHER WORDS.

THEY WERE THREATENING THE EVIL SPIRITS WITH THEIR WEAPONRY, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT APPROACH THE DEAD AND DISTURB THEIR REST.

IN GREECE, ENGRAVINGS OF MEDUSA'S HEAD WERE USED AS A WARD, MOST LIKELY FOR THE SAME REASON...

THE LATER "DEMON TEES" WERE PURPOSED TO WARD OFF EVIL WITH THEIR FRIGHTENING COUNTENANCES.

PEOPLE MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT THINGS THAT ARE MORE UGLY AND FRIGHTENING ARE MORE EFFECTIVE AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS.
FACES MORE FRIGHTFUL THAN ANY IN EXISTENCE...
THEY NEEDED UGLY FACES!
FACES SO UNSIGHTLY AND FRIGHTENING, THEY COULD NOT BE EXPRESSED IN WALL PAINTINGS AND ENGRAVINGS.



In 1994, a strange female skeleton from the Yayoi period was discovered in the "Maehara Nagamizo Ruins" in Kumamoto Prefecture

The abnormal thing about it was that the front of the cranium, or the face, was warped on each side and extremely flattened

This was not due to a hereditary disorder or illness Nor was it a post mortem depression

These were the results of some form of drastic transforma tive process

The only thing they could think of was that the skull was strongly compressed with a plank like object for an extended period of time, beginning in infancy, when the bones were soft.

As their noses would be crushed, they would have had to breathe through their mouths, and since their teeth would not clench properly, they would have had extreme difficulties in speaking and eating.

Their vision would have been lost, and they would even have suffered ill effects on the frontal lobe of their brain.

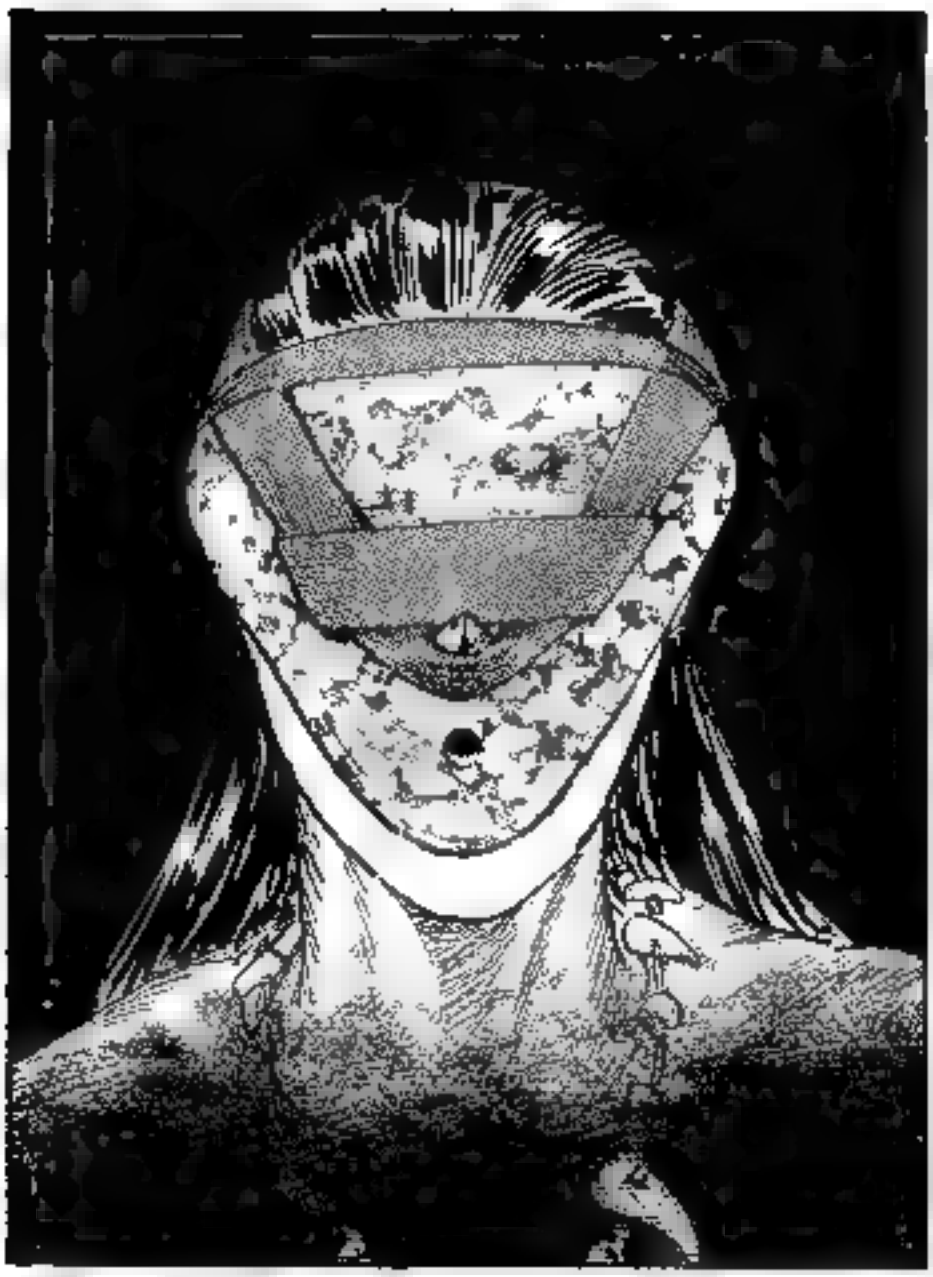
The agony would exceed all imagi nation

T...THAT SOUNDS LIKE TOR-TURE...

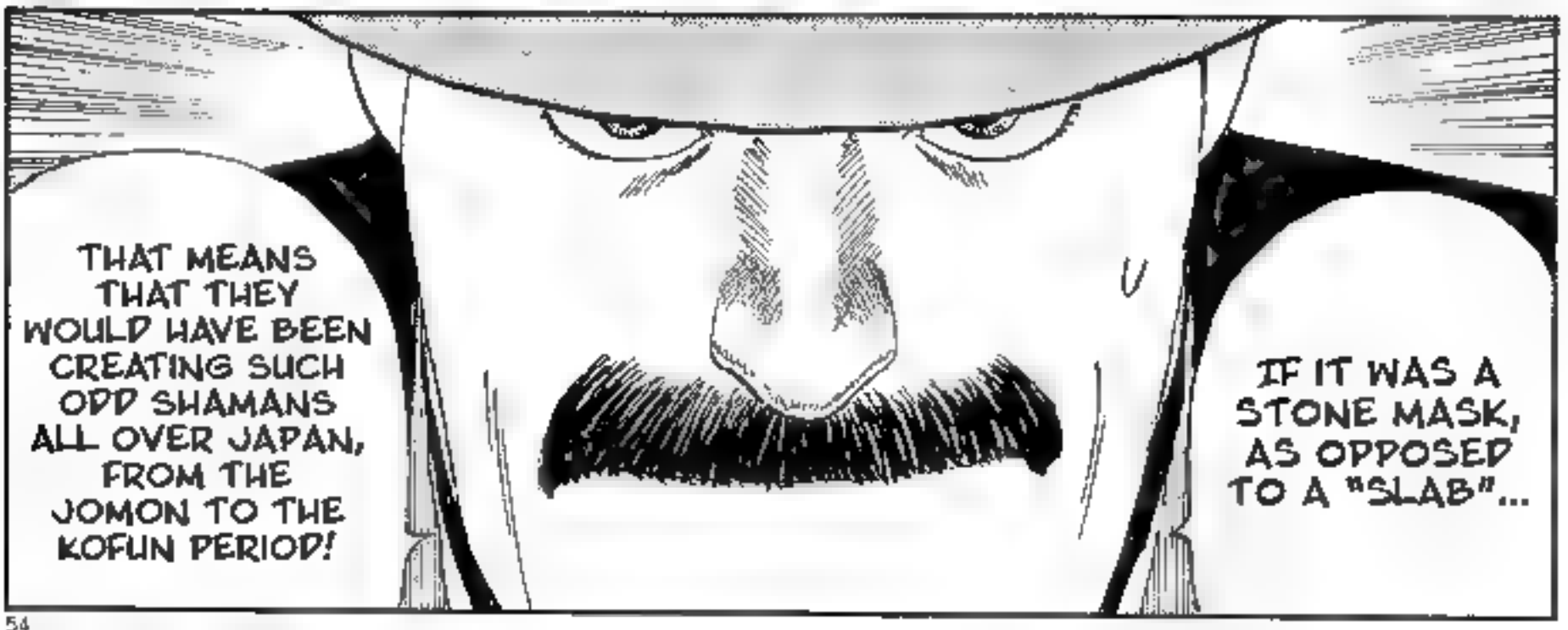
OR EVEN ABUSE!?

Their faces were transformed in a way not at all unlike the practice of "foot binding" in China...

THE BODIES THEMSELVES WERE STORED IN FUNERARY URNS, AND WERE HANDLED WITH RESPECT.
LATER, THEY ALSO EXCAVATED THREE "TRANSFORMED CRANIUM" WOMEN ALONGSIDE A CHIEF-CLASS BODY FROM "MATSUZAKA BURIAL MOUND".
THESE ARE GROUNDS THAT SUGGEST THAT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN POWERFUL SHAMANS THAT PRESIDED OVER LOCAL RITUALS.
THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION IS SO THAT THEY COULD MAKE UGLY AND FRIGHTFUL FACES...!
BUT WHY WOULD THEY TREAT THEIR SHAMANS SO HORRIBLY!?
UGLY AND FRIGHTFUL FACES... AHH!?



YOU DON'T MEAN THAT THE "STONE MASK" IN NAGANO WAS...!?


THAT MEANS THAT THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN CREATING SUCH ODD SHAMANS ALL OVER JAPAN, FROM THE JOMON TO THE KOFUN PERIOD!
IF IT WAS A STONE MASK, AS OPPOSED TO A "SLAB"...

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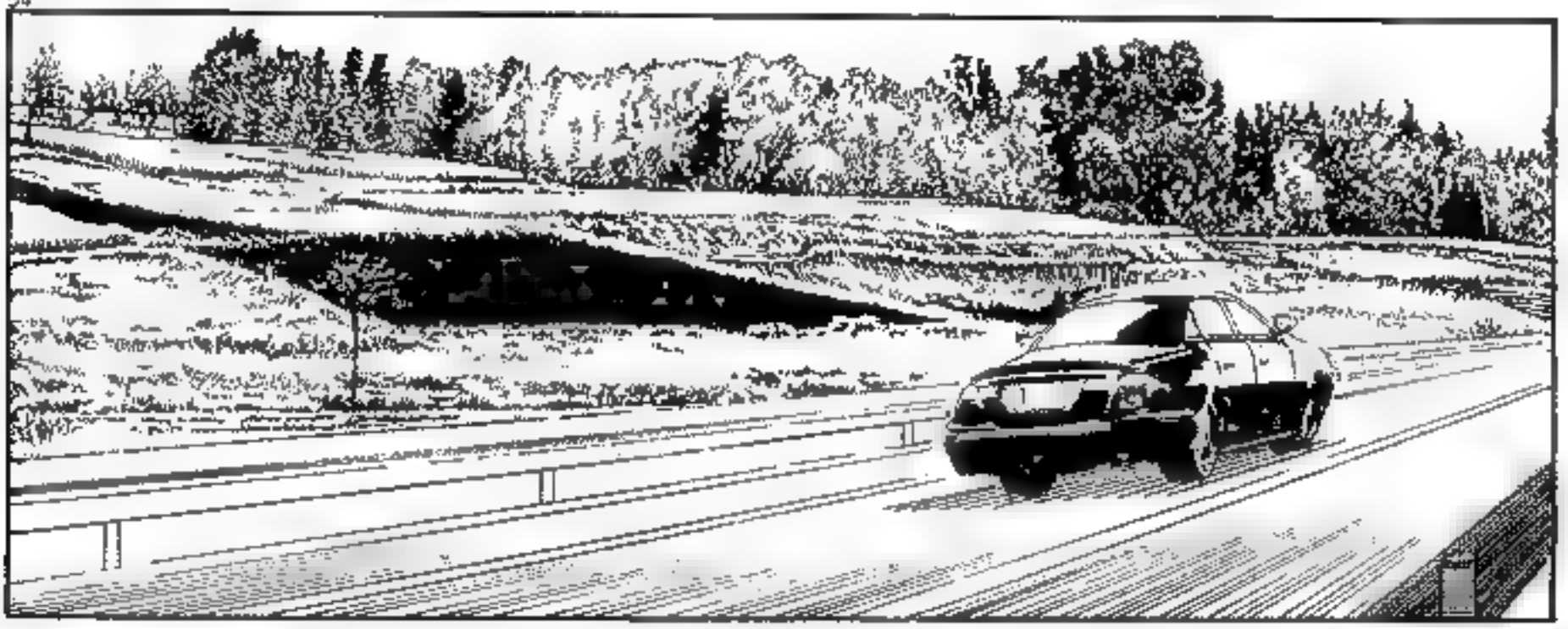

Nearby Maehara Nagamizo Ruins and Matsuzaka Burial Mound, there is a mysterious ancient ruin in Nagomi, Kumamoto, [illegible]

The theory was put forward that it was used by Himiko of Yamatai in her rituals, and it became nationally famous as a result

The trench and stone tunnel contin ues for over 400 meters .. There are no origins or leg ends remain ing to explain when and why it was built

THE DARK-NESS WAS FRIGHTEN-ING... THE CAVE IN NAGANO REMINDED ME OF IT.

THIS WAS BACK WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL, AND I TRIED GOING THROUGH TONKARARIN BACK THEN.

AFTER THAT, ATTENTION WAS DRAWN YET AGAIN TO THE HALF-FORGOTTEN TONKARARIN

BECAUSE OF THE TRANSFORMED CRANIUM WOMEN DISCOVERED IN THE MATSUZAKA BURIAL MOUND NOT 300 METERS FROM HERE.

IT MAY HAVE BEEN A FACILITY USED IN THEIR SECRET RITES AND RITUALS.

THESE MYSTERIOUS SHAMANS MAY HAVE EXISTED AT THE SAME TIME AS THIS RUIN.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE ACTUAL TRANSFORMED CRANIUM, BUT LET'S GO THROUGH HERE FIRST.

FEEL FREE TO TURN BACK IF YOU'RE SCARED.
WELL, IT'S A LOT NARROWER THAN I REMEMBER IT.

THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE CAVERN IN NORTH KYUSHU THAT WE SAVED YOU FROM.
ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT JUST THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN WIDER?

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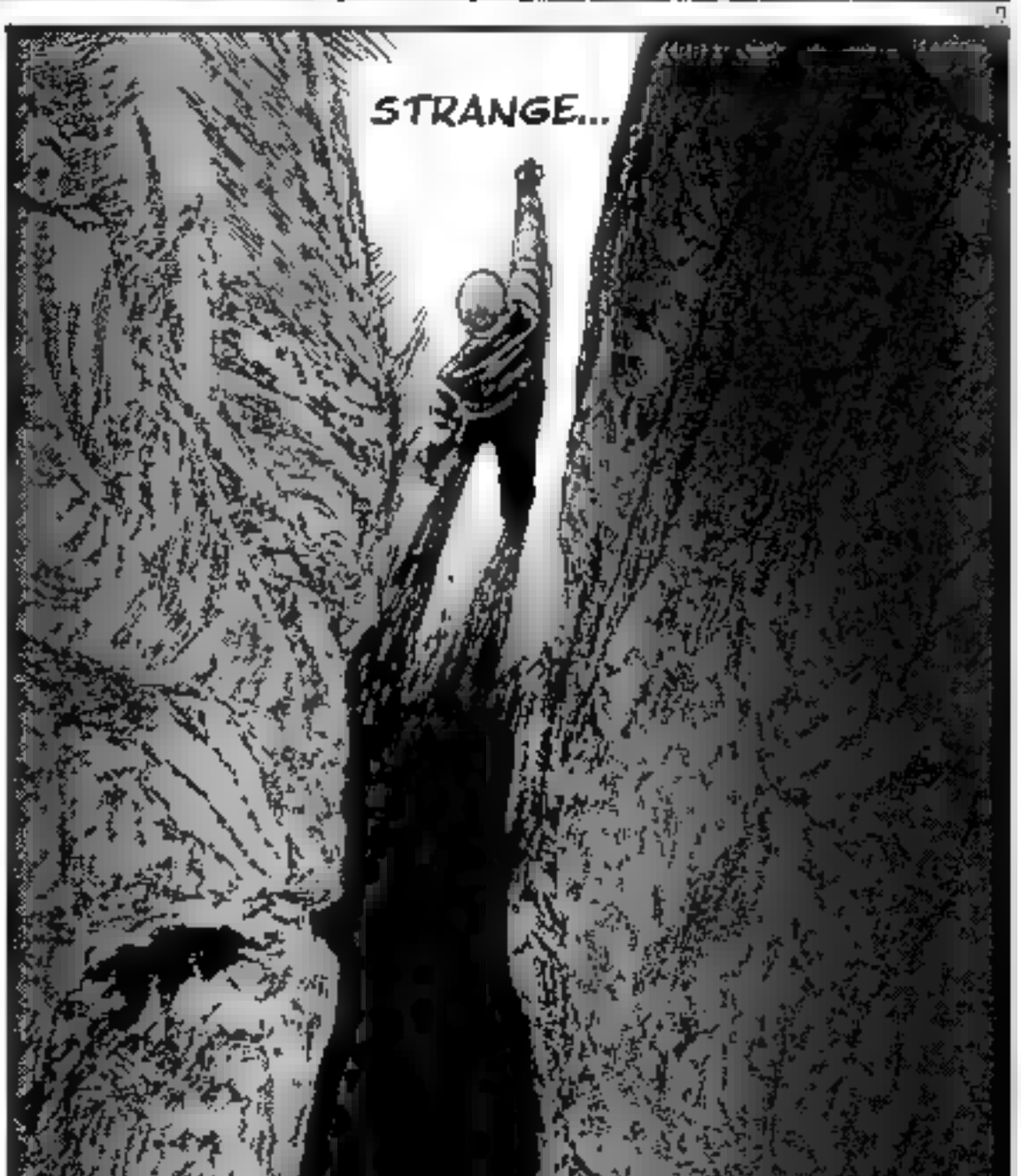
WATCH YOUR STEP RIGHT THERE.

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA...

DID THEY TURN BACK ...?

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN AT THE EXIT BY NOW...


STRANGE...

THIS IS ODD.

I CAN'T HAVE STUMBLED INTO AN UN-EXCAVATED "SECONDARY TONKARARIN" THAT WAS JUST DIS-COVERED RECENTLY, CAN I...?

WAIT, I'VE SEEN THIS DESIGN BEFORE...

WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?

A MASK... IT'S STONE. ANOTHER STONE MASK!

THE "MASKED TERRACOTTA FIGURE"... THE SUPPOSEDLY FEMALE EARTHENWARE FIGURE WEARING A MASK...

Excavated from 22nd Mound,
Mt. Otani, Wakayama Prefecture

IT CAME FROM ONE OF THE BURIAL MOUND GROUPS IN WAKAYAMA THAT I VISITED BEFORE... THAT WAS A REGION THAT THE HAYATO SUPPOSEDLY MIGRATED TO FROM KYUSHU IN ANCIENT TIMES.

OH, THERE YOU ARE, TAKI, ITSUKI, TAGIRI...

HAYATO WOMEN...

WAA
UGH
...!?

WA
AAA
AAA
AAU
GH...

UNCLE!

OH...

WE'D SUDDENLY LOST SIGHT OF YOU! WE WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

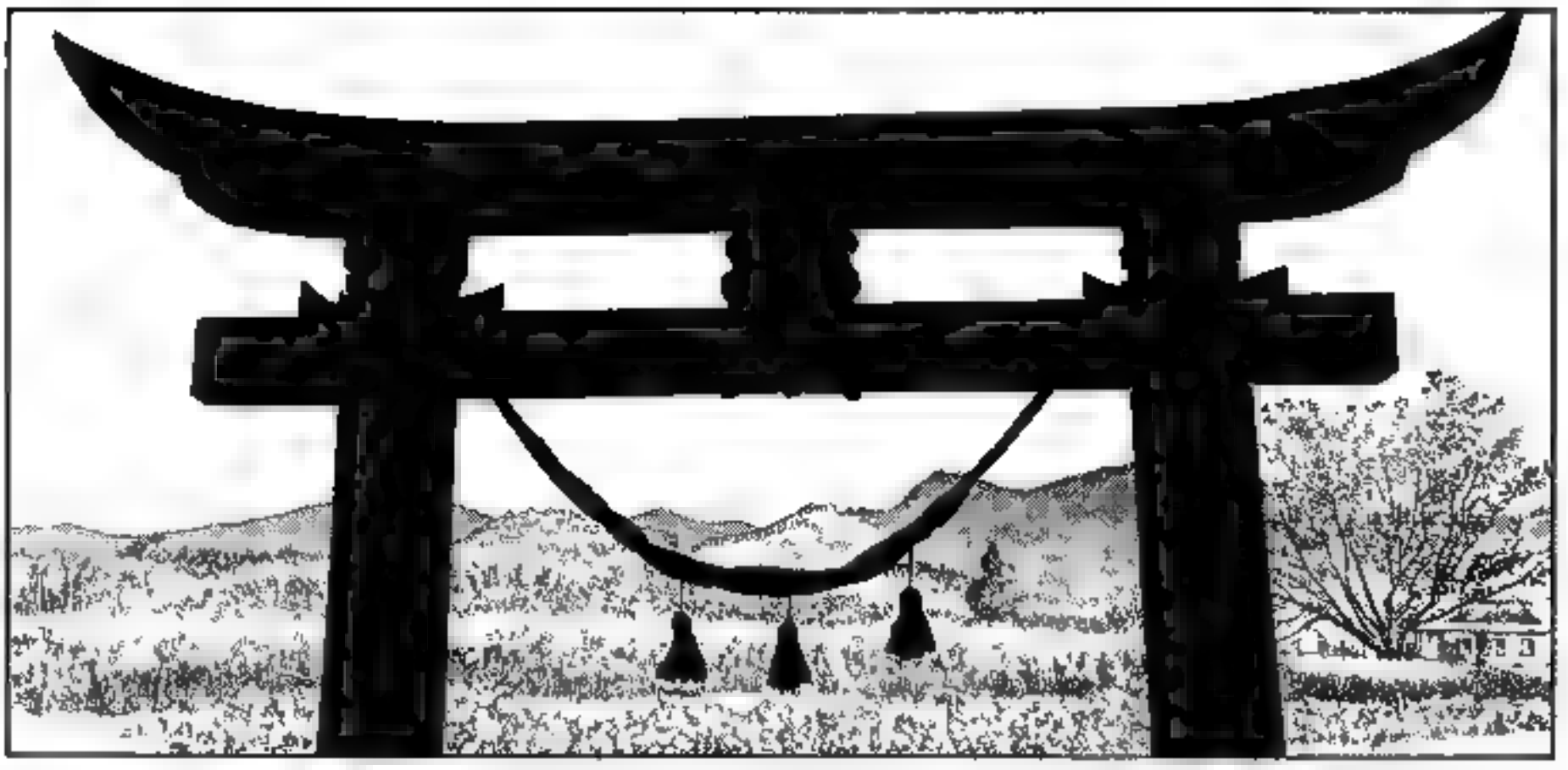
THIS, AS WELL AS THE CAVE IN NAGANO, MAY HAVE BEEN A RELIGIOUS FACILITY INTENDED TO CAUSE SUCH EFFECTS...

OR PERHAPS THEY BELIEVED THAT THE DARKNESS WAS CONNECTED TO YOMI, AND SO IT WAS A PLACE TO COMMUNE WITH THE DEAD.

THEY SAY THAT THE PITCH-BLACK DARKNESS OCCASIONALLY CONFOUNDS THE FIVE SENSES, AND MAKES PEOPLE HALLUCINATE.

THEY MAY HAVE THOUGHT OF THE ARTIFICIALLY-MADE "HAGS" AS POWERFUL GUARDIANS, TO KEEP AWAY THE EVIL AND VENGEFUL SPIRITS WITH THEIR INCREDIBLE UGLINESS.

PASSED, THIS BECAME A TRADITION LIMITED TO GROUPS SUCH AS THE HAYATO OF KYUSHU, AND BEFORE LONG THEY WERE DRIVEN INTO A CORNER OF MYTHOLOGY AS THE "HAGS OF YOMI", JUST LIKE "MEDUSA" OF GREECE...



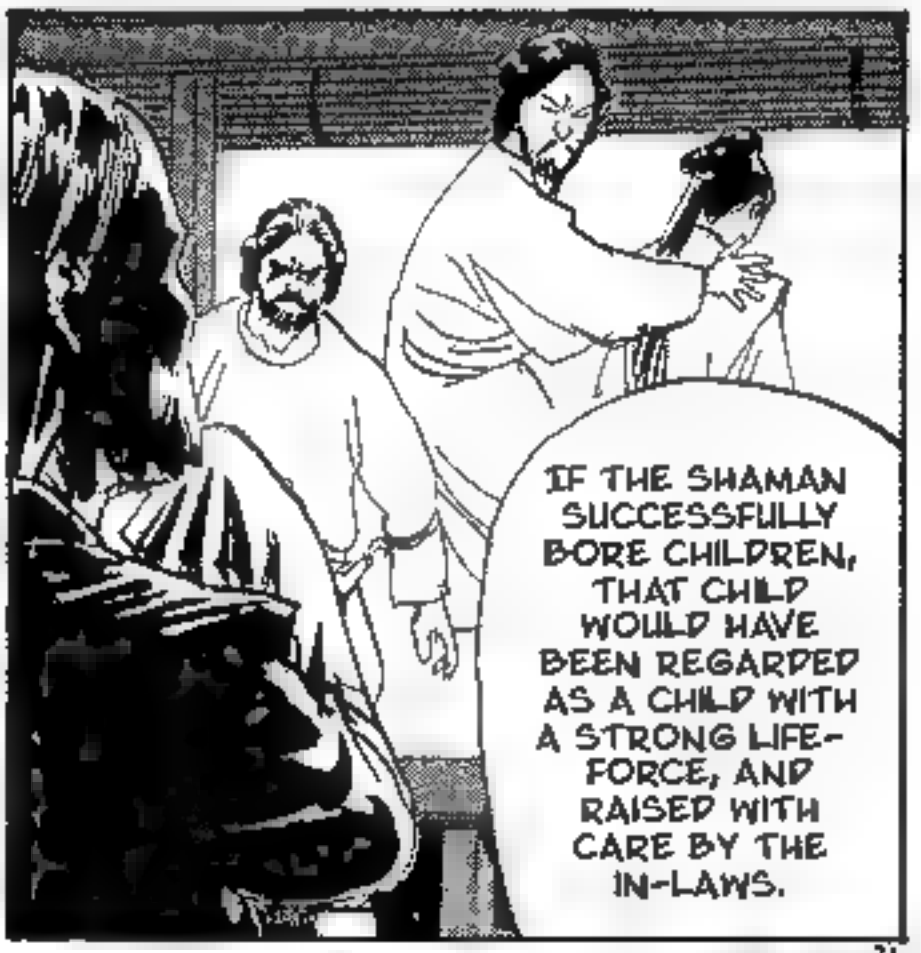
.....
I FEEL SAD FOR THE WOMEN THAT WERE MADE UGLY BY WEAR-ING THAT MASK...
THAT CHOKING FEELING I HAD WHEN I SAW THE STONE MASK...

THEY SAY THAT THE SISTERS KONOHANA SAKUYA-HIME AND IWA-NAGA-HIME, ENCOUNTERED BY THE HEAVENLY GRANDSON HONONINIGI, WERE HAYATO MAIDENS.

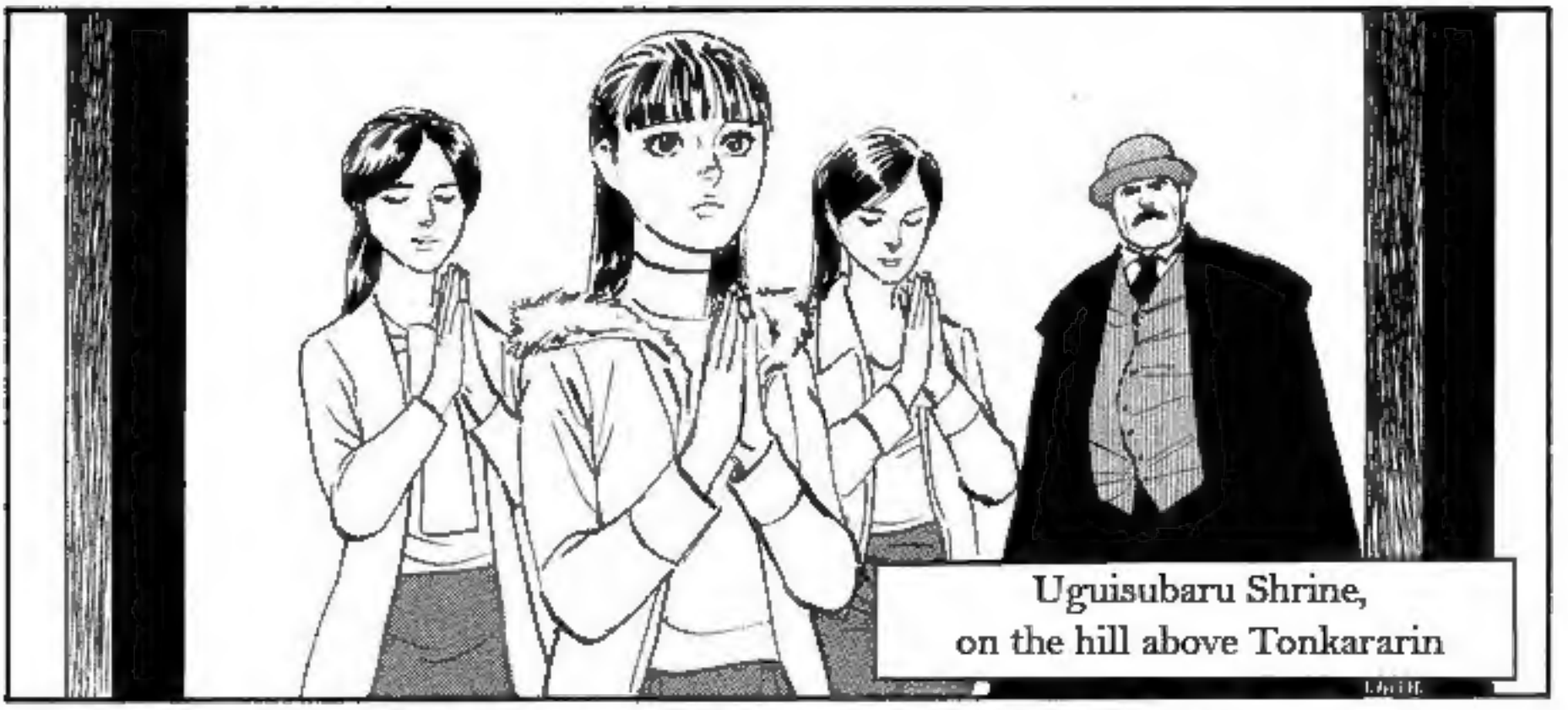
THERE WERE A NUMBER OF BODIES THAT HAD TRACES OF PREGNANCY.
UGLY AS THEY WERE, THEY MAY HAVE HAD CHILDREN AND MARRIED.

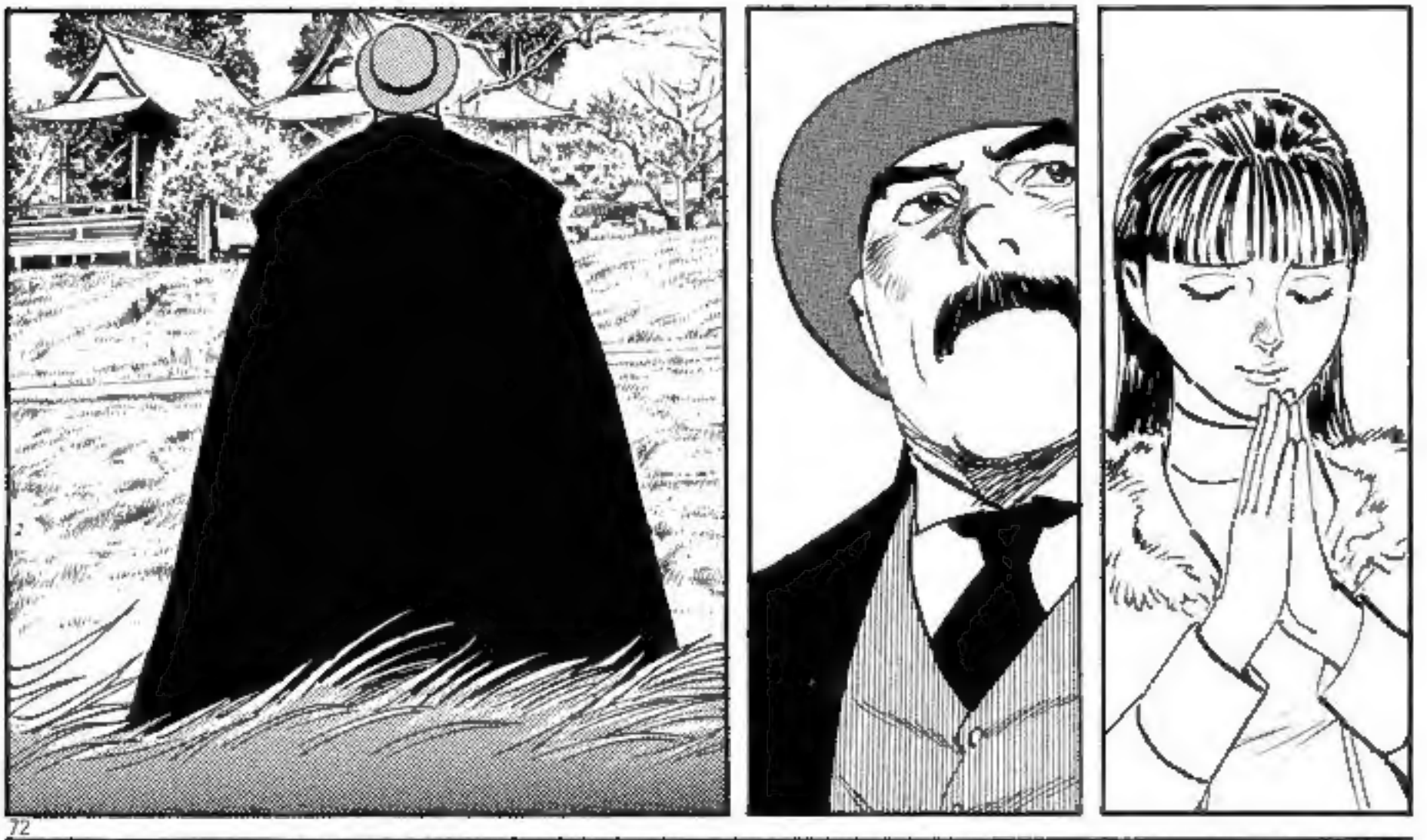
IT MAY HAVE BEEN THE HAYATO CUSTOM TO WED AN UGLY SHAMAN ALONG WITH THE BRIDE.

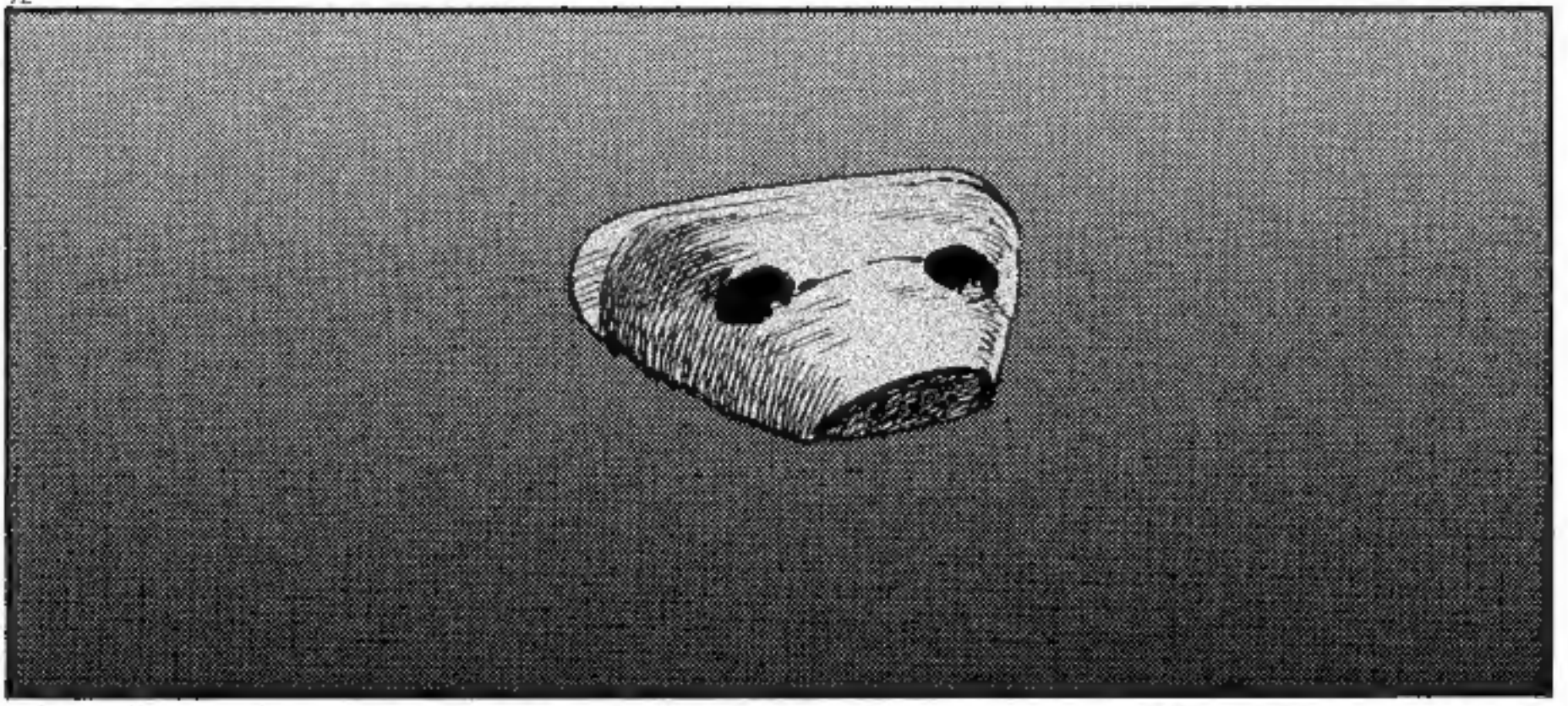
THIS IS BE-CAUSE ...


IF THE SHAMAN SUCCESSFULLY BORE CHILDREN, THAT CHILD WOULD HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS A CHILD WITH A STRONG LIFE-FORCE, AND RAISED WITH CARE BY THE IN-LAWS.

THIS IS THE MEANING BEHIND IWANAGA-HIME, WHO WOULD HAVE BROUGHT ETERNAL LIFE...
THEY BELIEVED THAT THE MOST UGLY AND FRIGHTFUL FACE COULD REPEL EVEN "DEATH" ITSELF







The Case Records of Professor Munakata – Collection 6 END

これらの作品はフィクションです。
実在の団体・人物・事件などには
一切関係ありません。

◎初出一覧◎

再会

『ビッグコミック』2006年11月10日号、11月25日号、12月10日号、12月25日号

◆

テキスト天空の神話

『ビッグコミック』2006年10月10日号、10月25日号

◆

黄泉醜女

『ビッグコミック』2007年1月10日号、1月25日号、2月10日号

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「古ヨーロッパの神々」マリヤ＝ギンブタス・著(言叢社)／『月刊考古学ジャーナル1995年6月号 NO.389』
「弥生中世人骨の人工変形頭蓋」坂田邦洋・著(ニュー・サイエンス社)

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THE CASE RECORDS OF PROFESSOR MUNAKATA

CHAPTER 19
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TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS

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HIGHTIDE AND KAZUHIKO

PROOFREADING BY
DESTORYERRING